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The Record of the Coldstream Guards

1650-1918

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This Book is given to

Charles Claude Jervis Crawford.

Candidate for a Commission

in the

COLDSTREAM GUARDS,

in order that he may acquaint himself with the traditions of the Regiment in which he may some day serve his King and Country.

John Campbell.

Colonel,
Lt.-Col. Commanding Coldstream Guards.

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ANNEX

NULLI SECUNDUS

THE RECORD OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

"THE Town of Coldstream, because the General did it the honour to make it the place of his residence for some time, hath given title to a small company of men whom God made the instruments of Great Things; and though poor, yet honest as ever corrupt Nature produced into the World, by the no dishonourable Name of Coldstreamers."—THOMAS GUMBLE, 1671.

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COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

THE KING.

COLONEL

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ALFRED CODRINGTON, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

LIEUT.-COLONEL

COLONEL H. W. STUDD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

CAPTAIN THE VISCOUNT MARSHAM.

COLONELS OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

1650. GEORGE MONK, DUKE OF ALBEMARLE.
1669. WILLIAM, EARL OF CRAVEN.
1689. THOMAS TOLEMACHE.
1694. JOHN, LORD CUTTS.
1707. CHARLES CHURCHILL.
1714. WILLIAM, EARL OF CADOGAN.
1722. RICHARD, EARL OF SCARBOROUGH.
1740. H.R.H. WILLIAM, DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.
1741. CHARLES, DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.
1744. WILLIAM, EARL OF ALBEMARLE.
1755. JAMES, LORD TYRAWLEY.
1773. JOHN, EARL OF WALDEGRAVE.
1784. H.R.H. FREDERICK, DUKE OF YORK.
1805. H.R.H. ADOLPHUS, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.
1850. JOHN, EARL OF STRAFFORD.
1860. COLIN, LORD CLYDE.
1863. SIR WILLIAM MAYNARD GOMM.
1875. SIR WILLIAM CODRINGTON.
1884. SIR THOMAS STEELE.
1890. HON. SIR ARTHUR HARDINGE.
1892. SIR FREDERICK STEPHENSON.
1911. LORD WILLIAM SEYMOUR.
1915. LORD FALMOUTH.
1918. SIR ALFRED CODRINGTON.

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THE RECORD OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS.

Part I., 1650 to 1907. Part II., 1914 to 1918.

Part I. of this book is a reprint of the account of the services of the Coldstream Guards from 1650 to 1907 and was written in 1907 by Colonel (then Major) R. J. Marker, D.S.O., who died of wounds received in action at Ypres in 1914.

Part II. has been compiled by Major A. G. C. Dawnay, C.B.E., D.S.O., in 1923, from a more detailed account written by Colonel C. J. C. Grant, D.S.O., in 1921. The object of embodying in one volume these two accounts is to put into the hands of all ranks of the Coldstream Guards a short narrative of the more important and outstanding features of the History of the Regiment which are more fully dealt with in :—

1. "The Origin and Services of the Coldstream Guards (1650-1815)," by Colonel D. Mackinnon.

2. "The History of the Coldstream Guards (1815-1895)," by Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Ross of Bladensburg, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

3. A History of the Regiment during the Great War, which is now being written by Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Ross of Bladensburg, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

H W. STUDD, Colonel,

Lieut.-Colonel Commanding, Coldstream Guards.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS,
COLDSTREAM GUARDS,
BUCKINGHAM GATE, LONDON, S.W.1.

1st August, 1923.

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PART I.

THE RECORD OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

By Major Raymond Marker, D.S.O.

THE Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards claims a double title to distinction in the Annals of the British Army. Not only is it the oldest Corps by continuous existence, but it is also the sole representative by lineal descent of the first Regular Army, which was raised and organised by Oliver Cromwell under the title of the "New Model."

At the end of June, 1650, Cromwell desired to confer a command on a distinguished officer of his Staff, Colonel George Monk, but from the fact that Monk had fought on the Royalist side during the recent Civil War the Regiment which had been selected for him did not look upon their proposed Commanding Officer with favour. This difficulty was solved by taking the equivalent of a half Battalion (five Companies) from each of two Regiments of the New Model (i) Sir Arthur Hazelrigg's, which had originally been raised as Weldon's Regiment of Foot in 1645, and had been detailed as

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one of the two Corps of Infantry to form the permanent escort of the Artillery Train; and (ii) Colonel Fenwick's, which had come into being at the same time, under the title of Lloyd's 7th Regiment of Foot.

These ten Companies were united under their new Colonel's command on the Border, and were officially known as Monk's Regiment of Foot for the next nine years, during which they served with distinction at the Battles of Dunbar and Worcester.

It is worthy of note that the earliest service which the Regiment can claim against a foreign enemy was rendered in the person of Colonel Monk in 1652, when he formed one of three admirals who led the British Fleet with conspicuous success against the then formidable Dutch Navy.

The soundness of Colonel Monk's naval tactics is indicated by results, but that his heart was in land rather than sea fighting may be inferred from the fact that one of the naval orders issued to his ships in the heat of action ran as follows: "Wheel to the right—Charge!"

The Lord Protector died in the autumn of 1658, and at the end of the following year Monk, who was then the General Commanding the Army in Scotland, removed his headquarters from Berwick to Coldstream, a town on the Tweed, where for the greater part of December he and his Troops suffered greatly from cold and privation. The cheerful spirit in which these trials were borne gained for the Regiment the title of "Coldstreamers," and it has been their endeavour during succeeding generations, for nearly 250 years, to merit by the same steadfast endurance of hardship and stress of war the title thus gained by the earliest bearers of their name.

On January 1st, 1660, General Monk started from

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Coldstream on his historical march to London, which he reached on February 3rd. The Coldstreamers were at once ordered to take up their quarters, for the first time, in the precincts of St. James's, and were employed by Monk in restoring order, and repressing the riots and disturbances which had characterised the last few months of Parliamentary rule.

So well did they perform this duty that they earned from a contemporary historian a comparison with "the Nobles of Israel whom Deborah loved," for their tact and spirit of discipline.

The end of May, 1660, saw the restoration of Charles the Second, and General Monk, who had been appointed Captain General of the Land Forces, was immediately created Duke of Albemarle and confirmed in his appointment.

On the occasion of King Charles's triumphal entry into London, the Coldstreamers were for the first time inspected by the Sovereign, and His Majesty expressed himself as much struck by the beauty, discipline, and martial appearance of the Troops.

On the King's restoration, the disbandment of Cromwell's New Model Army was decreed by Act of Parliament with the reservation that the Captain General's (Monk's) own Regiments of Horse and Foot were to be retained to the last.

By January, 1661, the process of reduction was so far completed that Monk's Regiment of Horse was actually in course of disbandment, and but for a chance riot the continuous existence of the Coldstreamers would have been abruptly terminated. On January 6th, however, a somewhat serious rising took place, necessitating stern repressive measures on the part of the Regiment, and it was decided to keep them permanently embodied or the security of their Sovereign's person.

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Thus on February 14th, 1661, Monk's Regiment of Horse and Foot were mustered on Tower Hill, and having been ordered to lay down their arms, and declared formally disbanded in relation to the Kingdom's pay, the Regiment of Foot was immediately ordered to take up their arms again as the Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards. From that moment dates the career of this already distinguished Regiment as personal Guards to the Sovereign of the Realm.

In the early part of 1664, 500 additional men were raised by Royal Warrant to augment the Establishment of the Captain General's Foot Guards, for sea service. Thus the Coldstream became the parent of the distinguished Corps which afterwards developed into the Royal Marines. In the same year Captain Holmes of the Coldstream commanded an expedition, in which a detachment of fifty men of the Regiment was included, to North America, where the Dutch settlement of the New Netherlands was captured and its name changed to New York. From 1664 to 1666 the Coldstream took part in numerous and notable achievements, and furnished a number of detachments for service in the Fleet.

On the death of George Monk, Duke of Albemarle, in April, 1670, the Lord General's Regiment was conferred upon the Earl of Craven, and from this time became known officially, as it had long been popularly, by the name of the Coldstream Guards.

In 1678 the Regiment embarked for Flanders in two detachments, was brigaded with the First Guards in that country, under Colonel John Churchill, afterwards the great Duke of Marlborough, and remained there until peace was signed in the following year.

About this time also, the establishment of the Regiment was again augmented, each of the twelve Companies being increased, to a strength of 100 men.

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During the reign of King James the Second, the active service of the Coldstream Guards was confined to the Battle of Sedgemore, by which the Duke of Monmouth's insurrection was suppressed.

In 1680 the Regiment provided a detachment of two Officers and 130 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, to form part of a composite Battalion of five Companies, raised from the Guards and other Corps, for service in Tangiers. This was known as the King's Battalion, and returned from Africa in 1684 with only 235 effectives out of the original strength of 600 men.

On the landing of William, Prince of Orange, in 1688, the Coldstream Guards were conspicuous for their loyalty to their King, and it required the direct orders of King James to prevent the Earl of Craven (then eighty years of age) from heading his Regiment in armed resistance to the Dutch Troops, which had been sent by the Prince of Orange to take possession of St. James's and Whitehall. At James's urgent desire, Lord Craven, with a reluctance which was shared by all ranks of the Regiment, removed his Coldstreamers to Rochester, where the Officers were received by King James for the last time.

Three months after William's accession to the throne, he gave orders that the whole Coldstream Regiment, which appears to have been first organised in two Battalions in the year 1684, were to embark for Flanders.

About the same time Lord Craven was removed from the command of the Regiment, which was given to Colonel Thomas Tolemache.

The first action in which the Coldstream were engaged in Flanders was that fought against the French under Marshal d'Humières at Walcourt in August, 1689,

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when, under the command of the Earl of Marlborough, the Regiment took a prominent part in the defeat of the French, who retired with heavy loss and in great disorder. The remainder of 1689 and 1690 was passed by the Coldstream Guards in quarters or in camp between Ghent and Brussels.

Early in 1691 William proceeded to Holland to take personal command of the Army, but it was not till the conclusion of the battle at Steenkirk in August, 1692, that the Regiment again came under fire.

During the campaign of 1693 the Coldstream were present at the Battle of Landen. Supported by the 7th Fusiliers, the Coldstreamers held a position against the attack of five French Brigades, as well as a flank attack by the French Household Cavalry, with such valour that, although eventually forced to retire with the remainder of the allied Army, they brought away with them the Standard of the First Troop of French Life Guards, captured by a Coldstreamer.

In June, 1694, Lieutenant-General Tolemache died of wounds received during a descent on the French coast in which a detachment of the Regiment took part, and the vacant command was conferred on Lord Cutts, whose personal bravery under fire was so conspicuous that it had earned for him the title throughout the Army of " Salamander Cutts."

In July, 1695, the First Battalion took part in the affair of Bouge in conjunction with two Battalions of the 1st Guards, the 1st Scots Guards, and a Battalion of Dutch Guards. This is the earliest instance of all three Guards Regiments being brigaded in battle, and they were on this first occasion conspicuous for coolness and valour. Marching up to the enemy's position they reserved their fire until they could fire their muskets between the palisades, and then delivered

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a charge which swept the French out of all their outlying works right up to the walls of Namur.

The losses of the Battalion in this action were heavy, including three Officers killed and eight wounded. After the action Lord Cutts was appointed Brigadier of the Guards—"an honour no Brigadier had enjoyed before."

In the subsequent operations leading to the capture of the town and the surrender of the Citadel of Namur, the Battalion divided its time between active work in the assault and guard duty over the King. During the remainder of the war in Flanders the Coldstream were again quartered chiefly in Ghent.

On September 10th, 1697, the peace of Ryswick was signed, and the First Battalion having embarked at Bruges landed once more in England early in November.

In March, 1701, King William died, and was succeeded by Queen Anne.

In July, 1702, war having again broken out with France and Spain, six Companies of the Coldstream were included in a composite Battalion of Guards under command of Colonel Braddock, to take part in an expedition against Cadiz and Vigo. This enterprise was more conspicuous for the valour of the troops than for the success or intelligent conduct of the operations, and after some loss in Officers and men the Coldstream detachment returned to London in November.

In July, 1704, a contingent of 400 men of the Coldstream, and 200 of the 1st Guards, again formed a composite Guards Battalion for service in Portugal in connection with the Spanish War of Succession.

Disembarked at Lisbon at the end of September, the force of which they formed part was almost immediately re-embarked for the reinforcement of the Fortress

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of Gibraltar which had been captured by Sir George Rooke in July. After narrowly escaping capture by French ships of war, 2,000 men, including all the Guards, landed on the Rock on January 20th, 1705, in time to save the Fortress and take part in the remainder of the siege, which was finally raised in April. This composite Battalion was again embarked in July, 1705, to operate with the expedition against Barcelona, and after the capture of the Fort and town it remained as part of its garrison, and held it through the French siege, which was not raised until April, 1706.

In May of the same year the composite Regiment was transferred to Valentia, and fought through the Campaign in Spain under Lieutenant-General Wyndham and Lord Galway, including the disastrous battle of Almanza, where they suffered heavy losses. This terminated their services in the Peninsula. In addition to its heavy battle losses, the Battalion appears to have suffered terribly from disease and the privations and waste of life of an ill-organised and insanitary sea transport service.

Early in 1707 Lord Cutts died, and the command of the Coldstream was given to General Charles Churchill, brother of the Duke of Marlborough, who had served with the Regiment in Flanders, and with the composite Battalion at Gibraltar.

A renewal of the war in Flanders again took the Regiment on active service, and in 1708 six Companies of the Coldstream, augmented to a Battalion by a contingent of the 1st Guards, were present at the battle of Oudenarde, the first engagement which appears as a battle honour on the Colours.

In April, 1709, a further detachment was sent to the Coldstream in Flanders, and though still only six Com

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panies strong, they no longer fought as a composite Battalion with the 1st Guards, but appear on the order of battle at Malplaquet as a separate Battalion.

Malplaquet, one of the bloodiest battles in the history of war, was referred to at the time in an official letter written by the Duke of Marlborough's secretary as more costly in lives than Blenheim, Ramillies, and Oudenarde combined. The action was fought on September 11th, 1709. The Coldstream and 1st Guards were posted on the right of the Infantry of the First Line, and a contemporary record mentions the loss of the Coldstream Guards as the heaviest of the twenty British Battalions engaged.

In August, 1714, Queen Anne died and was succeeded by King George the First. In the following month General Charles Churchill resigned the command and was succeeded by Lieutenant-General Cadogan (afterwards Lord Cadogan), the Duke of Marlborough's famous Quartermaster-General.

In July, 1715, the two Battalions of the Coldstream were encamped with the other Guards Battalions in Hyde Park, their strength being raised about the same time from fourteen to eighteen Companies, at which strength the Regiment remained for nearly eighty years.

From 1715 to 1742 they enjoyed their first long spell of peace since their original formation in 1650, but even this was broken by the despatch of seven Companies with Lord Cobham's expedition to Spain, which culminated in the surrender of Vigo.

In 1722 the Duke of Marlborough died, Lord Cadogan succeeding him as Commander in Chief and Colonel of the 1st Guards. The command of the Coldstream passed to the Earl of Scarborough, who was in turn succeeded in 1740 by the Duke of Cumberland.

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In May, 1742, King George the Second being on the throne, the First Battalion embarked at Woolwich with two other Guards Battalions for service in Flanders in support of the cause of Maria Theresa. Diplomatic delays and slow concentration combined to preclude active operations during 1742, but in 1743 King George joined the allied Armies on the banks of the Maine and took over the supreme command from Lord Stair.

Supply difficulties rendered an immediate retirement necessary, and the movement was commenced before dawn on June 16th, the Guards forming part of a strong rearguard, as it was anticipated that the brunt of the French attack would come from that quarter. But after a march of some miles the French were found to be barring the advance in a strong position, while their artillery from across the Maine enfiladed the line of march. A battle ensued which, in its initial stages, was chiefly a cavalry *melée* fought with great individual bravery and varying success. Eventually an attack by the British Infantry decided the day, and the French retired in disorder. From their position in the rearguard the Coldstream were unable to take part in this battle of Dettingen, which is notable as being the last occasion on which a King of England has personally commanded an Army in the field.

Both King George and the Duke of Cumberland displayed great personal bravery during the battle, a quality which, as is observed by the Hon. John Fortescue in his brilliant "History of the British Army," is characteristic of their race.

Between June, 1743, and May, 1745, the First Battalion Coldstream were in Flanders, quartered either at Brussels or in their familiar billets in Ghent, but on May 11th they found themselves on the right of the

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British Infantry in the first line of battle before Fontenoy. This battle is notable for the marvellous coolness and precision with which the British Infantry attacked the French. For over half a mile they moved forward under a heavy flanking fire of artillery, with shouldered arms and as if on parade, until within fifty yards of where the finest Regiment of France, the French and Swiss Guards, awaited them behind a breastwork. The French Troops fired the first volley, which seems to have been almost their last, for when the British at last opened fire their discipline was so perfect, and their aim so deadly, that with a constant succession of volleys the opposing ranks were swept out of existence. Over 600 of the French and Swiss Guards were laid low by the first discharge. Had this advance received the support it deserved the battle was won, but by a misunderstanding of orders the attack remained isolated. Although it penetrated to the heart of the French camp and was renewed against reserve troops, heavy losses began to tell, and the British Infantry was at length compelled to withdraw from what was perhaps the most glorious battlefield in its history, unsuccessful indeed, but in such perfect order that overwhelming numbers of the enemy dared not come within the zone of their perfectly delivered volleys during the retreat. Fontenoy remains a monument to the value of discipline and ordered fire-control, and on its field the Coldstream and Grenadiers each left 250 dead and wounded.

In consequence of political difficulties and an expected invasion of England in support of the Pretender, the bulk of the British troops in Flanders were recalled, and the Coldstream arrived at the Tower of London in September.

After the suppression of the rebellion of 1745, it became the turn of the Second Battalion to proceed on

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foreign service. In May, 1747, it embarked at Gravesend under command of Colonel Braddock (who must not be confused with the earlier Officer of the same name), and arrived at Flushing to join the allied Army till after the peace of Aix-La-Chapelle, 1749.

This peace was not of long duration, and a condition of unrecognised war very shortly broke out between the French and English in North America. An Officer of the Coldstream was appointed in 1754 to command the Expeditionary Forces in North America—General Edward Braddock, who took with him Captain Robert Orme of his own Regiment as A.D.C. He had also on his Staff during the ensuing operations an Officer who was afterwards destined to organise victory against England, namely Colonel George Washington. Braddock was chiefly remarkable for his personal bravery and strict notions of discipline, and his expedition ended disastrously in an Indian ambuscade near Fort Du Quesne, where he received wounds which resulted in his death in July, 1755.

In 1758, open war having broken out between England and France in Europe, the First Battalion of the Regiment embarked for a raid on the French coast, and more or less abortive expeditions were attempted.

At the end of July, 1760, the Second Battalion embarked for Germany with two other Guards Battalions, and were brigaded under a Coldstreamer, Major-General Julius Caesar. They took part in the operations of the Army in Germany under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick and the Marquis of Granby, against the French armies commanded by Marshals Broglie and Soubise. The campaign was rather a succession of tactical manœuvres than a record of engagements, yet, though the losses on the battlefield were small, so severe was the strain

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of the constant and rapid marches, by which an army of under 100,000 men tried to keep twice their numbers at arm's length, that fully 25 per cent. of the allied Army were incapacitated by hardship and disease by the end of 1761. In June, 1762, the Second Battalion fought at the battle of Wilhelmsthal, a small but brilliant action in which the 5th Fusiliers especially distinguished themselves. Here the French Troops, under Stainville, comprising the Grenadiers of France, the Royal Grenadiers, the Aquitain Regiment, and others, (practically the flower of the French Infantry), were almost annihilated by Lord Granby's Force of the three Guards Battalions and the 5th and 8th Foot. His casualties were small, only 450 in all, of whom 30 were Coldstreamers. The Battalion then shared in the fierce fighting of September 21st at the Castle of Amöneberg, which proved to be the final engagement of these long drawn-out campaigns. After marching through Holland the Battalion embarked at Williamstadt and landed at Yarmouth in 1763.

During 1774 the differences between the English Government and the North American Colonies developed into actual war, and in February, 1776, a composite Battalion was formed from the three Regiments of Guards for service in North America. On March 19th this Battalion, under command of Colonel Edward Mathew of the Coldstream, was reviewed on Wimbledon Common by King George the Third. The Coldstream contingent consisted of nine Officers and 298 Non-Commissioned Officers and men ; the strength of the whole Battalion being 30 Officers and 1,000 Non-Commissioned Officers and men. The force landed in America in August, 1776, and early in 1777 the Guards Battalion was formed into two Battalions, with Colonel Mathew as Brigadier. The operations of the American

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War of Independence lasted until the conclusion of peace in January, 1783, after the capitulation of Lord Cornwallis at the fall of Yorktown, to a superior force of 20,000 men, of whom 7,000 were French. The Guards had distinguished themselves throughout the course of this disastrous campaign, as the following extract from Lord Cornwallis's despatches clearly indicates.

"The gallantry of Brigadier-General O'Hara (Coldstream Guards) merits my highest commendation, for, after receiving two dangerous wounds he continued on the field while the action lasted; by his earnest attention on all other occasions, seconded by the Officers and soldiers of His Majesty's Guards who are no less distinguished by their order and discipline, than by their spirit and valour, etc."

The early months of 1793 witnessed the crisis of the French Revolution and the murder of Louis XVI. of France, upon which England joined the confederacy against the Republican Government.

The First Battalions of the three Regiments of Guards were mobilised for service in February, and a Brigade of four Battalions was completed by the formation of the Grenadier Companies of the three Regiments into a Fourth Battalion, to which a fourth Company was shortly added in the shape of a light Company raised from the three Second Battalions. They reached the northern frontier of France, and the First Battalion Coldstream had not long to wait for their first engagement, for on May 8th, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, they arrived near the village of St. Amand, where they were met by the Prussian General Knobelsdorf, who informed them in broken English that he had reserved for the Coldstream Guards the special honour of dislodging the French from their intrenchments in

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the Forest of Vicoigne. He omitted, however, to state that the Austrians had already been repulsed in three separate attempts to perform the same duty, with the loss of nearly 2,000 men!

The Coldstream went forward at once and drove the French, who also advanced to the attack, back into their intrenchments—but were then received by heavy musketry fire in front, and the fire of a battery at point blank range on their flank. They were forced to retire, and did so in good order to the edge of the forest, with a loss of over 70 Officers and men. Sergeant-Major Darley was specially noted for bravery in this action, continuing in the fight for nearly two hours after his arm had been shattered.

After assisting at the siege of Valenciennes the Brigade of Guards was employed on August 18th to extricate some Dutch Troops from difficulties which they had got into at the village of Lincelles. Advancing against the village under a heavy fire of grape, the Guards charged with the bayonet, stormed the French works, and drove the enemy off the field. The remainder of the campaign of 1793 and 1794 was marked rather by severe marches than by considerable engagements, though few weeks passed without skirmishes of more or less importance.

The winter of 1794-5 was severe, and caused great privations to the British Troops in the Low Country. After much manœuvring, and some fighting, with the French Army under Pichegru, the Coldstream embarked at Bormenlee, and arrived in May at Greenwich for London.

In August, 1799, the First Battalion Coldstream and the First Battalion 3rd Guards formed a Brigade under General Burrard for service in Holland under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The expedition was landed

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off the Helder on August 27th in the face of considerable opposition from a mixed force of French and Dutch, but their sudden descent caused such confusion that within three days a Dutch fleet of thirty-two vessels surrendered to the British Troops and the ships which accompanied them.

On September 19th the allied Army, strengthened by some thousands of Russians, and commanded by the Duke of York, advanced to the attack of Alkmaar. This enterprise very nearly ended in a disaster, and, but for the two Brigades of Guards (four Battalions in all), the main body of our allies would certainly have been cut to pieces. On October 2nd the Battalion was present at the confused fighting which is known as the battle of Egmont-op-Zee, though only one Company appears to have been engaged.

In 1800 the First Battalion embarked with the abortive expedition under Sir James Pulteney against Vigo, and from thence sailed to join the Army of Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. After some months on board ship off the coast of Asia Minor the force disembarked in March, 1801, in Aboukir Bay. The Coldstream were brigaded with the First Battalion 3rd Guards and came under heavy shell fire before quitting their boats, but in spite of vigorous opposition by the French the landing was effected on an open beach.

During the fighting which ensued, up to the surrender of Alexandria on September 1st, the Guards Brigade invariably distinguished themselves, and when the last division of the French Army of Occupation had surrendered at Cairo, the First Battalion Coldstream embarked for Malta, where they made a short stay before returning to London. For their conspicuous services the Regiment was awarded the distinctive badge of the Sphinx, superscribed Egypt, which

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appears on the Colours as evidence of the fact that they assisted in shattering Napoleon's dreams of Oriental conquest, by sweeping away the Garrison of veteran French soldiers whom he had left in Egypt to hold his base of operations for a campaign against India.

In September, 1805, H.R.H. Frederick, Duke of York, who had been Colonel of the Coldstream for twenty-one years, was succeeded by the Duke of Cambridge in the command of the Regiment.

A month later the First Battalion embarked at Ramsgate, and proceeded *via* Cuxhaven to Bremen with a British Force to join the allied Armies opposed to Napoleon. Napoleon's swift march eastwards from the Rhine, the capitulation of General Mack at Ulm, the entry of the French into Vienna, and finally, the battle of Austerlitz on December 2nd, entirely frustrated the slower combinations projected by the allies, and in February, 1806, the Battalion once more disembarked at Ramsgate.

In August, 1807, the First Battalion Coldstream, brigaded with the First Battalion 3rd Guards, landed on the Danish Coast and advanced on Copenhagen, which was invested until September 7th. The Danish Government then agreed to hand their Fleet over to England, and in October the Battalion returned to that country.

Early in January, 1809, the same Brigade, composed of the First Battalions of the Coldstream and 3rd Guards under Brigadier-General Henry Campbell, again embarked at Ramsgate, and after encountering a tempest which drove them to take refuge in Cork Harbour, sailed in March for Cadiz, being finally disembarked at the mouth of the Tagus for service with the Army in Portugal, under Sir Arthur Wellesley, and this

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inaugurates the long connection of the Regiment with the great Duke of Wellington.

In May the Guards Brigade was at Coimbra, whence Sir Arthur advanced to Oporto and effected the passage of the Douro in face of Soult's whole army, a most brilliant achievement, in which the Coldstream participated, crossing the Douro in boats opposite Oporto, and driving the French into confusion through the town, the light Company of the Battalion being actually the earliest troops to cross at this point. The Battalion joined in the pursuit which cost Soult the loss of all his baggage and artillery and a considerable proportion of his men. In June it joined the Army near Abrantes.

On July 27th and 28th it was present at the battle of Talavera, the Brigade of Guards forming part of the centre of the British line. An impetuous counter-attack delivered against the French columns carried the Brigade so far that they found themselves attacked by superior numbers of the French Reserves and taken by artillery in flank. The First Battalion of the 48th Regiment was sent by Sir A. Wellesley to their assistance, and by a brilliant manœuvre delivered a heavy blow on the right of the French Reserves. This gave time for the Guards to rally and advance once more in conjunction with the 48th. It proved to be the decisive stroke in the battle of Talavera, and the following extract from General Orders gives Sir A. Wellesley's opinion of the counter-attack of the Guards :—

" The charge made by the Brigade of Guards under command of Brigadier-General Henry Campbell on the enemy's attacking column was a most gallant one."

In March, 1810, two companies of the Second Battalion Coldstream, six of the First Guards, and three of the

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Third Guards, were also sent out to Cadiz, whence they joined the force commanded by Lieutenant-General Graham.

On September 26th-27th the First Battalion were engaged in the battle of Busaco, in which Wellington, commanding the allied army of about 50,000, defeated the combined corps of Ney, Regnier, and Junot, of a total strength of about 70,000 men. Withdrawing southwards after the battle, the army occupied for a long time the famous lines of Torres Vedras, which ultimately compelled Marshal Massena to commence his disastrous retreat through Portugal.

Two extracts from Wellington's Orders may be quoted here as emphasising his high opinion of the Brigade of Guards :—

(i) January 13th, 1810.

" I have taken frequent occasions of stating publicly the great satisfaction which the conduct of the Guards has invariably given me. . . . I am anxious to testify this satisfaction in a manner which shall prove to them that the attention which they pay to their duty is not unobserved by their superiors ; and if the Commanding Officers of the 2nd Battalions will be so kind as to recommend a Sergeant each, I will recommend them to vacant ensigncies in the Army."

(ii) March 4th, 1811.

" As during the two years during which the Brigade of Guards has been under the command of the Commander of the Forces, not only no soldier has been brought to trial before a General Court-Martial, but no one has been confined in a public guard. The Commander of the Forces desires that the attendance of this Brigade at the execution to-morrow may be dispensed with."

On the night of March 5th, 1811, Massena commenced the retreat which terminated in the French

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being driven out of Portugal. This retreat is notable for the successful manner in which Ney, in command of the French rearguard, contested position after position. The Coldstream shared in the successive operations which drove Massena headlong through Pombal, Condeixa, Guarda, and across the river Coa, forcing him to destroy all his baggage and most of his ammunition.

Meanwhile, the two Companies of the Second Battalion had moved by sea from the Isle de Leon to Tarifa to attack the French force investing Cadiz from the rear. This enterprise resulted in the battle of Barrosa, where the Coldstream and the 87th Regiment delivered a charge which drove the French troops under Ruffin from a strong position. This success received special recognition from General Graham in command.

The battle of Fuentes d'Onor was the next action in which the First Battalion took part, though from their position they were removed from the scene of the heaviest fighting. This concluded the share of the Battalion in the campaign of 1811.

In January, 1812, the Brigade of Guards were employed at the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, and in February, after the reduction of that fortress, proceeded to the still more arduous investment which culminated in the taking of Badajoz on April 6th.

Between July 8th and July 21st the First Battalion were present throughout the operations of Lord Wellington's army against Massena on the line of the Douro, and on July 22nd the light Companies of the Brigade occupied the village of Arapiles during the battle of Salamanca, their retention of this position against successive attacks of the French receiving special mention in Wellington's despatch. In September the siege of Burgos gave occasion for Wellington to

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remark on the exemplary manner in which the Guards performed their work in the trenches.

In the campaign of 1813 a detachment of two officers, two sergeants, a drummer, and fifty men volunteered for the storming party at San Sebastian on August 31st, in which more than half the Coldstream detachment were killed or wounded. At the end of the year the Battalion accompanied the advance of the army under Wellington into France, taking part in the various actions of the passage of the Pyrenees, and the crossing of the Nivelle.

On April 14th, 1814, the Battalion suffered heavily in a sortie which the French made from Bayonne. This was the final engagement in which it fought in the campaigns of the Peninsula, and in July, 1814, the Battalion embarked for England after nearly six years of active service in the Peninsula.

On November 24th, 1813, six Companies of the Second Battalion embarked at Greenwich for Holland, landing early in December at Scheveling. On March 8th and 9th, 1814, they took part in the assault on the strong fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom, which they were unable to capture.

After occupying successive quarters in Holland, the Coldstream took possession of Antwerp, whence they entered Brussels on August 4th. On September 2nd the Headquarters of the Battalion and the remaining four Companies arrived from England, and the Second Battalion was therefore complete in that town when Napoleon's escape from Elba at the end of February, 1815, once more caused a renewal of hostilities.

At the end of March the Battalion moved from Brussels to Enghien, where it was quartered until the morning of June 16th. On this day the Division of Guards, formed of two Brigades, each of two Battalions,

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was concentrated at Quatre Bras, to reach which at 4 p.m. in the afternoon the Coldstream Battalion had to make a twenty-five mile march.

The two Brigades were composed as follows:—

First Brigade. Second and Third Battalions of the 1st Guards, under Major-General Maitland.

Second Brigade. Second Battalion Coldstream Guards, and Second Battalion 3rd Guards, under Major-General Byng.

At Quatre Bras the Coldstream acted in support of the first Brigade, successfully repulsing all Kellerman's attempts to charge home with his masses of Cavalry. While Marshal Ney was failing to force the position of Quatre Bras Napoleon had inflicted a severe blow on the Prussians under Marshal Blücher at St. Amand and Ligny, driving them back to Wavre with a loss of 15,000 men. Consequently at 10 a.m. on June 17th, when this became known at Quatre Bras, the Duke of Wellington withdrew his forces to the famous position of Waterloo, where, on the morning of the 18th, the Army under his command on the actual battlefield totalled a strength of about 68,000 men and 156 guns against Napoleon's 72,000 men and 240 guns.

The story of Waterloo is too well known to require a detailed description, but the share taken in it by the Regiment deserves attention. The French made four isolated attacks on different sections, but chiefly on the right and right centre, of the allied position, and one desperate general attack on the whole line. During each of these assaults the fiercest fighting centred round the little farm of Hougoumont, occupied by Wellington as an advanced post to cover the right centre of his position. It was the object of almost

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continuous and determined assaults by the French, from the commencement of the battle at 11 a.m. till the final advance of the British in conjunction with Blücher drove Napoleon headlong from the field about 8 in the evening.

During the afternoon of the 17th the four light Companies from the two Brigades of Guards had been sent to occupy Hougoumont.

The two light Companies of the Grenadiers held an orchard to the left rear of the position, whilst the light Companies of the Scots Guards and some of the Coldstream were posted in a wood between the farm buildings and the French Army, the bulk of the Coldstream under Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell being in the farm-house itself.

Early on the morning of the 18th a Battalion of Nassau troops and some Hanoverians were sent to relieve the Grenadier light Companies, who returned to the main position in rear of the farm. About 11.30 the first French attack was delivered on the farm and drove the Nassauers back from the wood and orchard. This attack was repulsed by a charge of the Guards' Companies led by Colonel Macdonell. Further continuous assaults were made till about 1 p.m., when the Nassau troops were finally driven off in disorder by swarms of French tirailleurs, who obtained possession of all the outworks of the farm, and actually forced their way through the gateway. Colonel Macdonell, however, with a handful of Coldstreamers, not only drove the French out of the Courtyard, but managed once more to close the gates.

The enemy now being in possession of the enclosures right up to the buildings, Lieutenant-Colonel Mackinnon, with the Grenadier Company and No. 1 Company of the Coldstream, came down from the

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main position to Colonel Macdonell's support and, joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Acheson with No. 4 Company, succeeded in driving the French once more back to the orchard and wood. The pressure, however, was still so great that, leaving Nos. 7 and 8 Companies with the Colours in the main position, the Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Colonel Woodford, brought down the remaining Companies Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Four Companies of the 3rd Guards were sent about the same time to assist in holding Hougoumont, as were the light Companies of the First Brigade, and thus the orchard was once more recovered. Meanwhile, Colonel Woodford with the Coldstream made a most gallant attempt to clear the French from the wood, but eventually had to retire to the farm buildings, which with the orchard were held to the close of the battle. The casualties of the Second Battalion Coldstream at Waterloo were the heaviest in the two Brigades of Guards and amounted to eight Officers and 300 Non-Commissioned Officers and men. After the battle the Second Battalion accompanied the allied Armies to Paris, which was entered early in July. They removed thence to Cambrai in February, 1816, and from that place returned to England, November, 1818.

In March, 1838, the Second Battalion was once more called on for foreign service, proceeding with the expedition to Canada, in connection with Papineau's rebellion. They took no part in the active operations, which were indeed scarcely worthy of that name, in Canada, whence they returned four years later in October, 1841.

The long peace which the Regiment enjoyed since Waterloo was finally broken by the formal declaration of war against Russia in March, 1854. Previous to this

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the First Battalion had embarked on February 22nd at Southampton, as part of a Guards Brigade of three Battalions, the others being the 3rd Grenadier Guards, and the 1st Scots Fusilier Guards. The Brigade was concentrated under command of Colonel Bentinck, Coldstream Guards, at Malta early in March, whence it proceeded to Scutari at the end of April.

After six weeks at this place the Regiment was moved to Varna, and the Guards Brigade first had an opportunity of fraternising with their French allies. In July the Camp was moved ten miles to the neighbourhood of Lake Devna where cholera shortly added its ravages to the fever and dysentery which had already weakened the troops in their low-lying camp near Varna. A move back to the sea did something to restore health, and in September the Guards Brigade at last landed in the Crimea, forming part of the First Division commanded by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

On September 20th the Guards Brigade fought their first action at the passage of the Alma. In his account of this battle, Kinglake lays special stress on the ordered precision and discipline with which the First Battalion Coldstream advanced under fire. After the subsequent flank march round Sevastopol, the Battalion was employed throughout October in intrenching work, and the next battle in which they encountered the Russians was that of Inkerman on November 5th. Attacked by heavy masses of Russians in the early hours of a misty morning, the outposts were strengthened by hastily collected detachments. The British were outnumbered by at least ten to one at each point where the Russian columns attacked, yet by showing the boldest front, and to some extent assisted by the fog which concealed their weak numbers, they

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successfully withstood the onset. The battle of Inkerman was a series of hand-to-hand encounters which were distinguished by many deeds of valour, and the heavy losses of the Coldstream bear eloquent testimony to the share which the Battalion took in it. Out of seventeen Officers present only four were uninjured, eight were killed or died of wounds, and five were more or less severely wounded, the total casualties being 84 killed, 123 wounded.

The winter of 1854-5 was that "Crimean Winter" which has become a byword for privation and suffering; until February it was spent by the First Battalion in the trenches outside Sevastopol, then with the remainder of the Brigade they were moved to Balaclava to rest and recruit their strength. They returned to the front in June, when a heavy bombardment was opened on the Fortress to try to effect its downfall on the anniversary of Waterloo. The assault then delivered failed, however, in its object, and siege operations continued with monotonous energy throughout July and August, till at last, the Russians evacuated Sevastopol on the night of September 8th, 1855.

The Treaty of Paris brought about peace on March 30th, 1856, but it was not until June that the First Battalion returned to England. After being reviewed at Aldershot by Queen Victoria, on July 8th, the Guards Crimean Brigade made their public entry into London the following day.

The Victoria Cross was instituted early in 1856, and on June 26th, 1857, the first distribution of this coveted decoration took place in Hyde Park. Amongst other recipients, Queen Victoria pinned the Cross, which bears her name, on the breast of four Coldstreamers for valour in the Crimea, Brevet-Majors Goodlake and Conolly, and Privates Strong and Stanlack.

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It should be noted, that though only eight Companies of the Regiment were with the First Battalion in the Crimea, the establishment was raised during that war to twenty Companies, or ten a Battalion, at which it remained until 1881, when it was again reduced to sixteen.

From 1856 to 1882 the Regiment was not on active service, but mention must be made of two Officers, Captain Hon. R. Campbell, and Captain R. Barton, who were both killed in action on the same day, March 28th, 1879, during the Zulu War. Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood has referred to the achievement in which Captain Campbell met his death as " One of the bravest deeds I ever saw."

On August 1st, 1882, the Second Battalion embarked at Kingstown (being quartered in Ireland), to join a Guards Brigade for service in Egypt, under General Sir Garnet Wolseley, against the rebels led by Arabi Pasha. The Second Battalion Grenadiers and the First Battalion Scots Guards completed the Brigade, which was commanded by Major-General His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K.G.

After being quartered for a fortnight at Ramleh, till the possession of the Suez Canal was assured, the Battalion was transferred with the remainder of the First Division to Ismailia. Two days later the Guards Brigade moved to El Magfar in support of General Graham.

At daylight, on the 25th, a further advance to Tel-el-Mahuta brought on the engagement in which the Battalion took part which bears that name.

By September 12th the whole force was concentrated at Kassassin, and on that evening the night march was commenced which culminated in the defeat of Arabi at Tel-el-Kebir and the occupation of Cairo. There the

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Second Battalion were quartered until October 31st, when they embarked for Portsmouth, where they landed on November 16th.

In 1884 British troops were again required in Egypt to confront the formidable religious rising under the Mahdi, which was not quelled until the victory of Omdurman saw the power of Mahdism finally extinguished in 1898. Early in October, 1884, the Coldstream Regiment sent a detachment of ninety-two of all ranks to join the Camel Corps under Lieutenant-Colonel Hon. E. Boscawen, Coldstream Guards, formed for the expedition to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum.

The fall of Khartoum rendered this chapter of the war in the Sudan abortive, and early in 1885 the First Battalion left Wellington Barracks to take part in the Suakin Campaign.

Landing at Suakin on March 8th, they were shortly joined by the Second Scots Guards and Third Grenadiers with whom, and a New South Wales contingent, they were brigaded under command of Major-General A. Lyon Fremantle. On March 20th the Brigade was engaged at Hashin; three days later the action at Tofrek (more popularly known as McNeill's Zariba) took place, and the following day the Brigade moved to that place in support. Convoy duty, and some fighting, continued until April 2nd, when the Dervish Headquarters at Tamai were occupied, and the Brigade returned to Suakin.

After a further six weeks at Suakin the Coldstream were transported to Alexandria and Ramleh, and on July 1st embarked for Cyprus, where they remained till the end of August, returning early in September to London.

From 1885 to 1897 the Regiment was undisturbed, either by the operations of war or administrative change.

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In the latter year Parliament sanctioned a measure for the augmentation of the Coldstream and Scots Guards by the addition of a Third Battalion to each Regiment. The augmentation of the Coldstream was commenced in April, and the nucleus of the Third Battalion was moved to Woolwich on December 1st of that year. Colours were presented to the new Battalion by Queen Victoria at Aldershot in July, 1898. In April, 1899, the Third Battalion had an establishment of six Companies which was completed to eight Companies in July, 1900.

This increase in the number of Guards Battalions was made in connection with a scheme for quartering a Battalion of Guards at Gibraltar, and on March 10th, 1899, the First Battalion left Southampton for that station.

During the summer of 1899 relations between the British Government and the Transvaal had become so strained that precautionary arrangements were made in view of the probability of war. Among these was the detailing of a Brigade of Guards in readiness for active service, consisting of the Third Battalion Grenadiers, First and Second Coldstream, and First Scots Guards.

War having broken out on October 12th, the Second Battalion embarked at Southampton on the 20th for South Africa. The First Battalion embarked at Gibraltar on October 28th for the same destination, arriving at Cape Town November 12th and November 16th respectively. By November 18th, both Battalions were encamped near Orange River Station, where they were included in the First (Guards) Brigade under Major-General Sir H. Colville, K.C.M.G., C.B., of the First Division which was under Lieutenant-General Lord Methuen, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.

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The advance northwards was commenced early on November 21st, and by 8 p.m. on 22nd the Guards Brigade was bivouacked at Belmont Farm. On the 23rd both Battalions of the Coldstream took part in the battle of Belmont, losing 1 Officer and 12 Non-Commissioned Officers and men killed, 2 Officers and 22 Non-Commissioned Officers and men wounded.

Their next engagement was that at Modder River on November 28th, 1899. Here both Battalions were under fire for twelve hours, though the First Battalion, being in reserve on the right flank, suffered less heavily than the Second Battalion. The casualties were as follows :—

First Battalion—Killed, nil. Wounded, 21 N.C.O.'s and men.

Second Battalion—Killed, 2 Officers and 10 N.C.O.'s and men.
Wounded, 1 Officer and 58 N.C.O.'s and men.

The Second Battalion here lost their Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Stopford.

During the night of December 10th, Lord Methuen advanced with his whole force against the Boer position at Magersfontein. The Highland Brigade attacked at dawn on the 11th, the Guards Brigade co-operating in support. Both Battalions of the Regiment were heavily engaged throughout the day with the following casualties :—

First Battalion—Killed, 13 N.C.O.'s and men.
Wounded, 5 Officers, 46 N.C.O.'s and men.
Missing, 6 N.C.O.'s and men.

Second Battalion—Killed, 1 Officer, 5 N.C.O.'s and men.
Wounded, 19 N.C.O.'s and men.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Codrington commanding the First Battalion was wounded. After this battle the Brigade returned to Modder River, which was their headquarters until February 18th.

On February 12th, 1900, the original First Division was broken up and the command of the Guards Brigade was given to Major-General Pole-Carew, C.B. The Brigade subsequently formed part of Lord Roberts's main Army during the advance by Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, and Dreifontein to Bloemfontein. The latter town was entered on the 13th, the Second Battalion having covered 43 miles in 27¼ hours on half rations, during the last stage of the march.

Shortly after this Major-General Pole-Carew was appointed to command the eleventh Division of which the Guards Brigade, now under Colonel Inigo Jones, Scots Guards, formed part. Both Battalions were based on Bloemfontein until May 1st, on which morning the Brigade filed past Lord Roberts with the remainder of the main body of his force in the long advance northwards to Pretoria.

On May 12th Kroonstadt was reached and on May 31st the Guards Brigade bivouacked outside Johannesburg. On June 4th both Battalions were engaged in the fighting outside Pretoria, three men of the First Battalion being wounded. On the following day the Second Battalion led the advance of Lord Roberts's Army into Pretoria, where both Battalions bivouacked.

On June 12th both Battalions fought in the action at Diamond Hill, the First Battalion having one man killed, one Officer and eight N.C.O.'s and men wounded, and the Second Battalion one man killed. Both Battalions took part in the subsequent march to Komati Poort, which was reached on September 24th, the only engagement on the way being that at Belfast

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on August 26th, when the First Battalion had three men, and the Second Battalion five, wounded.

On September 27th both Battalions were railed back to Pretoria, the Second Battalion having seven men killed and one Officer and eleven men wounded by their engine being derailed and the train attacked by Boers on the way. From this date the Guards Brigade though nominally still under command of Major-General Inigo Jones was split up, and the two Coldstream Battalions operated chiefly in Cape Colony until the conclusion of peace on May 31st, 1902. Although no considerable engagements marked this period of twenty months, the rapid movements, varied and detached duties, and keen watchfulness, requisite at all times during this guerilla phase of the South African War, entailed no less strain and hardship on all ranks of the Regiment than did the more ordered operations of the war in its earlier stages under Lord Roberts.

It is not too much to say that whether the record of the First or of the Second Battalion is examined, constant evidence is obtainable from extracts from the orders, letters, and telegrams of Lord Kitchener, Sir J. French and other General Officers under whom the Regiment served, that throughout these trying months both Battalions fully maintained the traditions of their name.

The First Battalion embarked for England on September 12th and the Second Battalion on the 15th of the same month, arriving at Aldershot on October 4th and 6th respectively. Since the close of the South African War no call for active service had been made on the Regiment. On September 29th, 1906, however, the Third Battalion left England for Egypt, following for the first time one of the many trails which have

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been drawn across the world's surface by the older Battalions during their 250 years' existence.

This brief summary brings the work of the Coldstream Guards down to the present date. It is a record of which succeeding generations of Coldstreamers may well be proud. Their Regiment is the only existing link with the embryo of the British Regular Army, while by their constant employment on board the Fleet at the time when it was first asserting its supremacy of the seas, the Coldstream Guards can claim some small share in the early life of the sister service.

In whatever quarter of the globe the blood of British soldiers has been shed, there, with one exception, will be found graves of the Coldstream Guards. From the backwoods of North America, from the depths of the Ocean, from the sands of Egypt and the Sudan, from the South African veldt, and from every quarter of Europe, must those who have died for their King and Country be gathered before the last muster roll of the Regiment is complete.

India is the one portion of the Empire in the acquisition of which the Coldstream have not offered their quota to the life sacrifice of British soldiers by which it was won; but in the days when Clive and Wellesley were furrowing the plains of India with the thin red line, the Coldstream Guards were fighting nearer home.

From 1650 to 1907 the Regiment may fairly claim that their record has ever justified the motto "Nulli Secundus," which it is their privilege to share with one other Corps of another arm of the service. It is for present and succeeding generations of Officers and men of the Coldstream to ensure that the future chapters of their history shall add lustre to the records of the past.

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1907-1914

During the period between October, 1906, and August, 1914, the Regiment carried out the normal duties of peace. The 3rd Battalion returned to England on the March 23rd, 1911.

On June 29th, 1911, all the Battalions lined the streets on the occasion of the Coronation of King George V. and Queen Mary, the 2nd Battalion coming up from Aldershot, and going into Camp in Battersea Park.

On April 25th, 1913, all units of the Regiment, together with about 500 Reservists, took part in the Review of the Brigade of Guards by the King, in Hyde Park. Strength of the Regiment on parade, 75 Officers, 1,727 Other Ranks (plus Reservists).

In June, 1913, the Old Coldstreamers Association was formed, under the Presidency of Colonel C. S. O. Monck, Lieut.-Colonel Commanding the Regiment.

On September 16th, 1913, a four company organisation was adopted throughout all Battalions of the Regiment, with effect from October 1st, 1913.

Nothing further of any note occurred until the outbreak of war, in August, 1914.

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PART II.

FOREWORD.

No attempt has been made in the following pages to treat historically the events of the war as a whole. Discussion of the problems of strategy and of major tactics has been intentionally avoided. Only those actions have been described in which units of the Regiment were actually engaged; and the relation even of those actions to the larger operations of which they formed part has been, to a great extent, assumed or ignored.

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PART II.

THE RECORD OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918.

I.—THE RETREAT FROM MONS.

At midnight on August 3rd/4th, 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. A fortnight later the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions Coldstream Guards were all in France, with the remainder of the Expeditionary Force, in the British concentration area between Le Cateau and Guise.

On August 20th the British Army marched northward into Belgium; and on the 23rd, as the result of the great German enveloping movement which compelled our Allies to withdraw from Belgium, the historic Retreat from Mons began.

The story of the Retreat is one that will live in history among the great traditions of the British Army; and the part borne in it by the Coldstream Battalions in the 1st and 4th Guards Brigades will be handed down, with just pride, from one generation of future Coldstreamers to another.

Throughout the war, in all the course of the tremendous years that followed, no episode offers more striking proof of the power of discipline and sound training, based on a spirit of mutual confidence between all ranks, to enable men to achieve what, otherwise, might well prove beyond their strength. For it must be remembered that the Battalions which marched from Mons were not composed of men in the height of physical condition fresh from the training ground and from manœuvres. More than half of them were Reservists, just recalled to the colours from their civil occupations, many of them unfit from sedentary employment, men whose feet were as soft as their newly-issued marching boots were hard, and whose shoulders had

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grown unaccustomed to the weight of a soldier's equipment. Add to this the intense heat of the last days of August and of early September in 1914, and the depressing moral effect of prolonged retreat—especially in the opening days of a campaign—and it may well be questioned what "force" it was that held the Army together, and enabled it, in spite of almost overwhelming physical and moral strain, to emerge after thirteen days' continuous retreat with fighting qualities unimpaired, one of the finest offensive armies that Great Britain has ever put into the field.

The answer is to be found in two causes, both learned, in so far as Coldstreamers were concerned, in the course of their previous peace training in the regiment. In the first place, *Esprit de Corps*, which made every officer, non-commissioned officer and man jealous that, whatever happened, his own regiment should not compare unfavourably with any other; in the second place, Discipline, which taught all ranks to do their duty, unquestioningly and without thought of self, confident that their superiors would not betray their trust, and determined for themselves to play their part like men.

It is not possible, within the scope of the present narrative, to trace in detail the events of the thirteen days which followed the retirement of the British Expeditionary Force from Mons on August 23rd. Two actions, however, wherein Coldstream Battalions played an especially conspicuous part, may be briefly described.

Towards evening on August 25th (the third day of the retreat) the 4th Guards Brigade, which included the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, reached Landrecies, a small French town on the southern edge of the Forêt de Mormal, after a long and tiring march. Orders were issued that, as the country to the north was reported to be clear of the enemy for a considerable distance, the

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troops might be allowed out of their billets until 9 p.m. Officers and men were consequently scattered throughout the town when, at about 4.30 p.m., a report was received to the effect that a strong force of Germans was advancing on the town from the north-west, through the Forêt de Mormal.

The " Alarm " was sounded, and the troops hurriedly stood to arms ; whilst cavalry patrols were sent out to reconnoitre. Small parties of Uhlans were encountered within a mile of the town, and shots were exchanged, but no confirmation was obtained of the near presence of any considerable force of the enemy. After a short time, therefore, the troops were again dispersed to their billets, the 3rd Coldstream sending out one Company, with the Machine Gun Section, as an outpost to cover the northern entrance to the village.

At about 8 p.m. the sound of advancing troops was heard, coming from the direction of the forest ; and shortly afterwards a body of men approached the forward picquet in the gathering dusk. On being challenged the officer commanding the approaching troops replied in French ; but, a moment later, the leading company, having by this time advanced to within a few yards of our men, suddenly rushed the picquet, and in the confusion that followed succeeded in getting possession, temporarily, of one of our machine guns. The surprise and weight of the first unexpected attack drove the outpost Company back to the edge of the village ; but here a counter-attack held up the enemy's advance.

There followed many hours of fierce hand-to-hand fighting. The Germans, supported by light field guns brought into action at point blank range, attacked again and again with great determination. But they never succeeded in gaining a foothold in the village, and by 3 a.m. the attack was finally repulsed and the

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action died away. Twice during the night German star shells set light to a building at the entrance to the town, thus disclosing the positions of our men to the enemy, but on each occasion Lance-Corporal Wyatt, of the 3rd Battalion, succeeded very gallantly in extinguishing the flames, under heavy rifle fire at close range. For this gallant act, and for his conspicuous bravery at Villers Cotterets a few days later, he was subsequently awarded the first V.C. gained by the Regiment during the campaign.

This brilliant action by the 3rd Battalion, which certainly saved the 4th Guards Brigade, and possibly the whole British Army, from disaster, is the more memorable in that it was the first serious engagement of the Battalion since its formation—a splendid baptism of fire!

From Landrecies the 4th Guards Brigade marched to Étreux, where it was relieved as rearguard to the 2nd Division by the 5th Cavalry Brigade. Since 3 a.m. on the 23rd, the troops had marched close on 65 miles (100 kilometres), they had been employed for the greater part of two days as rearguard, they had spent one entire night (August 23rd/24th) digging, and one night fighting, and during the whole 84 hours they had had scarcely six hours' sleep! Nevertheless, all ranks were in good heart, their moral was high, and their spirit of discipline was absolutely unshaken.

After the action at Landrecies the retreat continued for the next six days without interference by the enemy as far as the Coldstream Battalions were concerned. On September 1st, however, the enemy was reported to be pressing in strength on the heels of the 2nd Division, and the 4th Guards Brigade, with the 41st Brigade Royal Field Artillery and the Divisional mounted troops, were ordered to take up a rearguard position about the Forêt de Villers Cotterets, with instructions to arrest

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and delay the advance of the enemy with the utmost energy, in order to cover the retirement of the remainder of the Division to Thury-en-Valois.

The Brigade was accordingly disposed in two lines; the 2nd Grenadiers and the 3rd Coldstream in front, and the 2nd Coldstream and 1st Irish Guards in a supporting line immediately covering the northern edge of the forest.

At 9 a.m. the German attack began; and shortly afterwards the Grenadiers and the 3rd Battalion were ordered to retire, through the supporting Battalions, to a fresh position running roughly east and west through the centre of the wood. As the pressure of the attack on the new front line developed, the 2nd Coldstream were in turn ordered to fall back to a further position in rear of the wood; and shortly afterwards, at about 11 a.m., the Irish Guards, who had just begun to follow this movement, and the 3rd Coldstream were heavily attacked.

Owing to the movement that was in progress, and the thickness of the woods, the fighting rapidly became very confused; and in places there were considerable gaps between Companies, and even between Platoons. All ranks, however, fought with the utmost gallantry, each platoon and section resisting yard by yard the enemy's advance through the thick undergrowth, until eventually the German attack was driven off towards dusk, and the Brigade was safely extricated.

As a result of this operation the following message was subsequently received from the Commander-in-Chief: "Please convey to the 4th Guards Brigade my deep appreciation of their gallantry in the difficult situation in which they found themselves on September 1st. I greatly regret their heavy losses."

From Villers Cotterets the Brigade marched, through

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the night, until 3 p.m. on the following day, when it rejoined the remainder of the 2nd Division in bivouacs at Villenoy. During the previous 36 hours, in addition to fighting the whole of one day, the troops had marched a distance of nearly 40 miles, without sleep, and with no food beyond what they carried in their haversacks into action on September 1st.

Throughout the remaining days of the retreat neither the 1st nor the 4th Guards Brigades were again engaged; and the three Coldstream Battalions were with their respective Brigades between Coulommiers and Melun, south-east of Paris, on September 5th, when at last the retreat was stayed, and the Allied Armies turned about to take, in their turn, the offensive. During the thirteen days of the retreat the actual distance covered on the map was just over 170 miles, though in fact Battalions had marched, necessarily, considerably further. Weary and footsore with the fatigue of long marches and the frequent strain of rearguard fighting, suffering severely from the intense heat and from lack of sleep, and oppressed by the moral depression of prolonged retreat, nevertheless the spirit of the troops never wavered, and scarcely any men fell out by the way. So much can *Esprit de Corps* ingrained on Discipline achieve!

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II.—THE MARNE AND THE AISNE.

On September 6th the advance of the Allied Armies began ; and throughout the day the 1st Battalion, which formed part of the advanced guard of the 1st Division, was engaged with strong enemy rearguards. The action on this day was practically confined to the front of the 1st Division, but at one period the 4th Guards Brigade, on the left, also became involved, and for a time the three Coldstream Battalions were all deployed (with only the Irish Guards between the 1st and 3rd Battalions) in one continuous line. Two days later, on September 8th, the 4th Guards Brigade was engaged in a very successful advanced guard action at the crossing of the Petit Morin, in the course of which the 2nd Battalion captured more than 100 prisoners and seven machine guns.

After the crossing of the Petit Morin the advance continued without special incident until September 13th, on which date the 1st and 2nd Divisions reached the Aisne at Bourg and Chavonne respectively. In front of the army lay the Aisne, and beyond the river ran, from east to west, the long hog-backed ridge of the Chemin des Dames, with thickly wooded spurs sloping sharply to the river.

On the 13th, a general advance was ordered, and the 1st Division crossed the river with slight opposition at Bourg. On the same day the 2nd Battalion, acting as advanced guard to the 4th Guards Brigade, seized the crossing at Chavonne, but, on pushing forward to the high ground north of the river, the leading Companies were met by heavy artillery and machine gun fire, and at dusk the Battalion was withdrawn, under orders, to Cys la Commune, south of the river, leaving one Company to guard the bridge-head at Chavonne.

The 14th of September dawned in thick mist ; and

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at an early hour, the 2nd Brigade, with the 1st Guards Brigade in support, advanced, and, climbing rapidly up the steep ridge above Vendresse, completely surprised the enemy, several hundreds of whom were captured, as well as two batteries of field guns. On reaching the crest, the 1st Battalion deployed to attack the Troyon sugar factory, which was strongly held by the enemy, and after some hard and difficult fighting in the mist and thick woods the factory was captured. From there the Battalion pushed on to the village of Cerny en Laonnois, which was in turn occupied before noon.

By this time, as far as could be seen in the fog, the Germans were in full retreat, and the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion accordingly pushed forward with a few men collected from the leading Companies, down the further slope into the woods beyond. Here, however, they were held up by heavy rifle and machine gun fire; and shortly afterwards, as the result of a strong German counter-attack on both flanks of the Brigade, the party was practically surrounded, and only succeeded with great difficulty in making its way back, towards midnight, to the remainder of the Battalion, which in the meantime had been withdrawn at dusk into Brigade reserve near Vendresse. During the fighting on September 14th the casualties of the 1st Battalion were 11 officers and 360 other ranks killed, wounded and missing.

Meanwhile the 4th Guards Brigade had also moved at dawn on the 14th, as advanced guard to the 2nd Division, and crossing the Aisne, without opposition, at Pont d'Arcy, advanced up the wooded slope to Soupir, where touch was obtained with the 5th Brigade on their right. On reaching Soupir at about noon, the 3rd Battalion, with the Irish Guards on their right, were ordered to advance through and to clear the woods north of the village in order to relieve the pressure on the 5th Brigade,

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whilst the 2nd Grenadiers on the left were directed on les Grouins to support the 1st Cavalry Brigade, which was reported to be in difficulties about Chavonne. Owing to the densely wooded slopes the fighting was slow and difficult, but the troops pushed steadily on, and early in the afternoon had established a line, clear of the woods, on the crest about La Cour de Soupir Farm.

When the action began the 2nd Battalion was in Brigade reserve in the woods about half a mile north of Soupir. Shortly after noon, however, two Companies were sent up to support the 2nd Grenadiers; and as the fighting in front of the 3rd Battalion and the Irish Guards became more and more severe during the afternoon, the whole of this reserve, with the exception of two platoons, was eventually absorbed into the battle. By evening, however, the Brigade line on the crest was securely established, and at nightfall two Companies of the 2nd Battalion were again withdrawn into Brigade reserve south of La Cour de Soupir Farm.

It is unnecessary here to describe in detail the events of the critical days that followed—days that marked the first stage in the transition from moving to trench warfare. It is enough to say that after the first desperate attempts on either side to force a victory, each began gradually to recognise that deadlock was inevitable, and steps were accordingly taken to perfect defensive systems with a view to indefinite occupation, to organise systematic trench reliefs and to evolve the innumerable measures and devices peculiar to stationary warfare.

For the troops day followed day in comparative monotony. Constant artillery bombardment, wherein the enemy enjoyed the advantage of immense superiority in guns and munitions, was kept up with unabated energy; but, as time went on and as the line grew stronger, the German infantry attacks tended to diminish

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both in frequency and in violence, though this may have been due in part also to the withdrawal during October of large numbers of his troops to the Flanders battlefield.

One incident, however, which gained for the 2nd Battalion its first Victoria Cross, must be specially mentioned. On Monday, September 28th, day broke in dense mist. Just as a patrol of three men was approaching the enemy's trenches the fog suddenly lifted, and two of the three were instantly shot, the third man getting back to the lines with only a slight wound. Of the other two it was impossible to judge how badly they were wounded, but it was certain that to leave them until they could be brought in under cover of darkness would mean exposure for at least fourteen hours without attention to their wounds; whilst to bring them in by daylight, across 150 yards of open ground, in full view and under the close fire of the enemy, appeared to be absolutely impossible.

Nevertheless Lance-Corporal Dobson volunteered to make the attempt, and crawled out, under heavy fire, to the two men, one of whom he found already dead, the other alive though badly wounded. Having dressed the wounded man as best he could, Dobson returned; and then, accompanied by Corporal Brown, crawled out a second time, the two men dragging between them a stretcher, and finally brought back the wounded man in safety to our lines. The second journey was assisted by a partial return of the fog; but it was none the less an extraordinarily gallant act, and for their gallantry Dobson was awarded the Victoria Cross, and Corporal Brown the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Finally, towards the middle of October, on the transfer of the 1st Army Corps to Flanders, the three Coldstream Battalions left the Aisne, being relieved in their trenches by French troops.

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III.—YPRES, 1914.

The 1st Corps completed its concentration between Hazebrouck and St. Omer on October 19th; and on the 20th the 1st Division was ordered to move to Langemarck, where the 7th Division was reported to be in difficulties. Crossing the Ypres Canal at Boesinghe, the Division reached Langemarck early in the morning on the 21st, and soon became heavily engaged with the enemy about the Forêt d'Houthoulst, though the 1st Guards Brigade was not actually drawn into the battle. On the following day, the Germans delivered a strong counter-attack, and the 1st Battalion was moved up into the line east of Pilkem, where for the next two days it was engaged in heavy and confused fighting, till the 25th, when the Brigade was relieved by French Territorials, and marched back to reserve billets at Zillebeke.

Meanwhile the 4th Guards Brigade, which had arrived at Hazebrouck on October 7th, moved on the 20th, as advanced guard to the 2nd Division, through Ypres to St. Julien. On arrival at St. Julien at about 4 p.m., the 2nd Battalion was ordered to advance and seize some high ground covering the Zonnebeke-Langemarck road, in order to secure the left flank of the 7th Division, which was being heavily attacked in the neighbourhood of Zonnebeke. The high ground was gained, without opposition, before dark; and at dawn on the 21st the Brigade was ordered to attack and gain the line of the road, where touch was to be obtained with the 22nd Brigade of the 7th Division at Zonnebeke.

The attack commenced at 8 a.m.; and the two Coldstream Battalions, leading the Brigade, at once came under heavy artillery, rifle and machine gun fire. By 11.30, however, the 2nd Battalion had pushed forward to

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the line of the road, whilst the 3rd Battalion, on the left, which had met with very severe opposition in the early part of the attack, had established a line slightly further back on a ridge overlooking the valley of the Stroombeke. Here the advance was checked; but in spite of several determined counter-attacks both Battalions maintained their positions, and the situation remained practically unchanged until the evening of October 23rd, when the Brigade was relieved, and moved back towards midnight to Zillebeke.

From Zillebeke, on the morning of the 24th, the Brigade moved to Eksternest; and at about noon the next day orders were received to attack and clear the Polygon Wood, west of Reutel, with Becelaere as the final Brigade objective. At 3.30 p.m. the Irish Guards and the 2nd Grenadiers advanced, with the 2nd Coldstream in close support, and the 3rd Battalion in Brigade reserve. Before long, however, owing to the thickness of the woods and the gathering dusk, the two leading Battalions lost touch; and at nightfall the Irish Guards on the left had reached the eastern edge of the wood, whilst, with a considerable gap between them, the Grenadiers were heavily engaged in some smaller detached woods south-east of the Polygon. In this situation the 2nd Coldstream were ordered to advance at dawn, to fill the gap and to continue the attack in conjunction with the leading Battalions.

It was a night of torrential rain, with a gale of wind, and the troops passed the hours in extreme discomfort in their exposed positions waiting for dawn. Just before daylight the 2nd Battalion moved forward, but soon the wood became so thick that the troops were compelled to move through the dense undergrowth in single file, which made it a matter of the utmost difficulty to keep direction. Eventually, however, touch was

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gained with the Irish Guards on the left, and on the right with a Battalion of the 5th Brigade ; though in order to link up with the latter the right flank of the Battalion had to be thrown back almost at right angles to the general line. In this position the troops dug themselves in, as best they could, with their light entrenching tools. And here, with very slight modifications, the Brigade line remained until November 17th.

As an indication of the severity of the fighting on October 25th, in one clearing alone more than 800 German dead were subsequently buried, and everywhere the wood was fouled with corpses. Several German soldiers were also found, some hanging, others tied to the trees and shot—a grim example of German methods of discipline !

Before describing the period that followed in the Polygon Wood, it will be well, here, to turn back in order to follow the movements of the 1st Battalion with the 1st Guards Brigade.

On October 26th the 1st Brigade marched from Zillebeke to the woods near Veldhoek, where orders were received to attack in the direction of Poezelhoek, and thence north-eastward towards Becelaere, in conjunction with the 7th Division on the right, and the 2nd Division on the left. The 1st Battalion, with the 1st Scots Guards on their left, led the attack, and, advancing by the eastern edge of Gheluveldt, reached a line just west of Poezelhoek, where the attack was held up by a strong German counter-attack, which was, however, finally repulsed towards evening.

Throughout the 27th and 28th this line was held against repeated counter-attacks ; but on the 29th the enemy succeeded in breaking through a portion of the line held by the 7th Division immediately on the right of the Brigade, and the 1st Battalion, attacked simul-

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taneously in front, in flank and in rear, after a most gallant resistance, was practically annihilated. Towards evening the greater part of the line lost earlier in the day was re-established by a counter-attack by the 3rd Brigade; and the remnants of the 1st Battalion—in all some 80 other ranks, without a single combatant officer!—were collected under the Quartermaster, Lieutenant Boyd, near Gheluveldt and withdrawn into Brigade reserve.

After three days in reserve, the Battalion, which in the meantime had received a draft of two officers and about 100 other ranks, returned to the line on November 1st; but on the very next day it was again heavily attacked, losing both its officers and more than 50 per cent. of other ranks killed or wounded. Accordingly on November 5th what was left of the Battalion moved to the Polygon Wood, where it was attached to the 2nd Battalion until November 12th. From the Polygon it was sent on the 12th to join the 6th Brigade in support near Zonnebeke, and on November 19th it was finally withdrawn to be reorganised as a Battalion, and rejoined the 1st Guards Brigade in reserve at Meteren.

To return to the 2nd and 3rd Battalions in the Polygon Wood, where they remained from October 26th till November 17th; although no special action marks the period, it was not an easy time. Subjected almost daily to attacks of varying intensity; continuously shelled, often from three sides at once (for the position was at the extreme apex of the Ypres salient); suffering considerably from snipers and from bombing, the enemy having sapped forward in many places to within twenty yards of our trenches, life in the Polygon constituted a severe strain on the troops. Added to this, owing to the existence of numerous underground springs, many of

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the trenches were waterlogged ; and the weather, which began by being wet and stormy, grew from bad to worse, rain and snow falling almost incessantly during the last 10 days. Nevertheless the spirit of the troops never faltered, and their unfailing cheerfulness, energy and courage, in spite of constant strain and very trying conditions, gained from their commanders the highest praise.

In his Despatch describing these operations, the Commander-in-Chief wrote subsequently: "That all the enemy's desperate attempts to break through our line have been frustrated, is due entirely to the marvellous fighting power and the indomitable courage of officers, non-commissioned officers and men. No more arduous task has ever been assigned to British soldiers, and never have they answered so magnificently to the desperate calls which of necessity were made upon them." And in a Special Order of the Day issued to the troops on November 22nd, he concluded with the words: "I have made many and severe calls upon you, and the answers you have made to them have covered you, your regiments and the army to which you belong, with honour and glory. . . . It is impossible for me to find words in which to express my admiration of the splendid services you have performed."

On October 30th Brigadier-General Lord Cavan was ordered to take over the command of another section of the line, and took with him the 2nd Grenadiers and Irish Guards, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Pereira temporarily in command of the two Coldstream Battalions in the Polygon sector. Thus when the 1st Battalion, after its magnificent disaster, was attached on November 5th to the 2nd Battalion, to Lieutenant-Colonel Pereira fell the unique distinction of commanding the three Battalions of the Regiment on active service. On

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November 17th the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were relieved in the Polygon by French troops, and rejoined the remainder of the 4th Brigade at Zillebeke, moving three days later into rest billets, outside the shelled area at Meteren.

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IV.—FROM YPRES, NOVEMBER, 1914, TO LOOS, SEPTEMBER, 1915.

After a month spent resting and reorganising at Meteren, the 1st Division moved on December 21st to the Givenchy-Festubert sector, where the Indian Corps was being heavily pressed by the enemy. On reaching Béthune, at about 3 p.m., the 1st Guards Brigade, which was leading the Division, was ordered to attack and recapture the Rue d'Ouvert, an important ridge north of Givenchy, overlooking the whole of the flat country between La Bassée and Béthune, which had been lost by the Indians on the previous day.

The ground was a morass of mud and shell holes, and it was pouring with rain and bitterly cold, when the Brigade attacked at dusk. But, aided by a hail-storm which drove straight into the faces of the enemy, the troops pressed steadily on, under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire, to the outskirts of Givenchy, where a line was established by the 1st Battalion during the night.

In this position the Battalion was placed in an exceedingly dangerous situation, as during the attack touch had been lost with the units on either side, and both flanks were consequently completely in the air, and exposed to the enemy on the high ground about Rue d'Ouvert. However, at dawn on the 22nd the attack was continued and several important German trenches were captured, although, through lack of support and its exposed flanks, the Battalion suffered very heavily, losing in killed and wounded during the action nearly 50 per cent. of all ranks.

A month later the 1st Guards Brigade was again in the line near Cuinchy, just south of the La Bassée

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Canal, when, on January 25th, 1915, the enemy exploded two large mines under the front held by the 1st Battalion and the 1st Scots Guards on their right. The explosions were immediately followed by strong infantry attacks, which, in the first confusion, succeeded in gaining part of our front line trenches. A counter-attack, however, was rapidly organised, and after several hours of heavy fighting the enemy was finally driven off, and by nightfall the broken line was completely restored.

A few days later the 2nd Division relieved the 1st Division in the Cuinchy-Givenchy sector, and on February 1st the 2nd Battalion, in the 4th Guards Brigade, was heavily attacked at Cuinchy. For a time some advanced trenches on the left of the Battalion front were lost; but later in the day a counter-attack, assisted by the Irish Guards, not only regained the original line, but advanced, in places, to a considerable distance beyond it.

On February 5th the 3rd Battalion carried out, in conjunction with the Irish Guards, a brilliant local attack in the same sector, for which they gained the special thanks of the General Officer Commanding the 1st Army.

The bald narrative of these events can give but little idea of the actual strain upon the troops of these operations about Cuinchy. Separated, in many places, by only a few yards from the enemy, who held everywhere the commanding ground in the sector, fighting in waterlogged trenches surrounded by a sea of mud, the weather constantly wet and bitingly cold, conditions of greater physical discomfort can scarcely be imagined; whilst the severity of the fighting may be judged by the number of casualties, which, in the course of little more than a month, amounted in the three Battalions to 20 officers and over 600 other ranks killed and wounded.

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In the operations carried out during the spring and summer of 1915, which included the battle of Neuve Chapelle and the second battle of Ypres, neither the 1st nor the 4th Guards Brigades were engaged. In August and September the Guards Division was formed, as a result of which units were re-shuffled, the 1st Battalion joining the 2nd Guards Brigade, whilst the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were transferred to the 1st Guards Brigade. On the formation of the Guards Division, a 4th (Pioneer) Battalion of the regiment was formed, and joined the Division; and so, for the first time, there were four Coldstream Battalions simultaneously on active service.

On the 25th of September, 1915, the 1st Army attacked, in conjunction with the 10th French Army, east of Béthune, in the battle of Loos.

During the first two days the attacks carried out by the 1st and 4th Corps were on the whole successful, though an unfavourable easterly wind prevented the gas, which was used by the British Army in this battle for the first time (in reprisal for the German gas attacks at Ypres in the spring), from giving the full results hoped for.

On the 27th, however, some important ground in the neighbourhood of Hill 70 was lost to a strong German counter-attack, though this was recovered later in the day by a particularly brilliant attack by the Guards Division, in which the 1st Battalion (now in the 2nd Guards Brigade) played a conspicuous part. Advancing late in the afternoon in support of the 2nd Irish Guards, who had gained a temporary foothold in a wood called the Bois Hugo, but were unable to retain it, the Battalion with great dash captured the wood and dug themselves in on the further side. Throughout the advance the troops were exposed to intense enfilade machine gun

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fire from a spur of the Bois Hugo which remained uncaptured on their flank, and in addition they suffered heavily from a severe and very accurate bombardment by 8-inch guns, their casualties in the attack amounting to 11 officers and 250 other ranks killed and wounded. Nevertheless the line gained on the 27th was consolidated during the night, and maintained intact till September 30th, when the Battalion, with the remainder of the 2nd Guards Brigade, was relieved, and withdrawn into Divisional reserve at Verquin.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions, in the 1st Guards Brigade, were not engaged in the main attacks at the battle of Loos; but the 4th Pioneer Battalion received its baptism of fire in this battle, in the course of which it performed admirable work, especially by night, in strengthening the positions gained by the leading troops, and in constructing and maintaining communication trenches throughout the Divisional Area.

On the 8th of October the Guards Division was again heavily engaged in the defeat of a strong German counter-attack in the Hohenzollern sector, just north of Loos. In the course of this action Lance-Sergeant Brooks, of the 3rd Battalion, on his own initiative at a very critical period, led a party of bombers against a strong detachment of the enemy, and succeeded in clearing and regaining a section of trench nearly 200 yards in length which had been temporarily lost by the Battalion on the left, and from which our men were being heavily enfiladed. For this act of signal bravery, and for his cool leading and initiative, Sergeant Brooks received the Victoria Cross.

Towards the end of October the Guards Division was finally withdrawn, and moved back into reserve in the neighbourhood of St. Omer.

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The following poem by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, commemorating the attack of the Guards Division at the battle of Loos, appeared in the *Times* on June 23rd, 1917 :—

THE GUARDS CAME THROUGH.

Men of the 21st
  Up by the Chalk Pit Wood,
Weak with our wounds and our thirst,
  Wanting our sleep and our food,
After a day and a night—
  God, shall we ever forget!
Beaten and broke in the fight,
  But sticking it—sticking it yet.
Trying to hold the line,
  Fainting and spent and done,
Always the thud and the whine,
  Always the yell of the Hun!
Northumberland, Lancaster, York,
  Durham and Somerset,
Fighting alone, worn to the bone,
  But sticking it—sticking it yet.

Never a message of hope!
  Never a word of cheer!
Fronting Hill 70's shell-swept slope,
  With the dull dead plain in our rear.
Always the whine of the shell,
  Always the roar of its burst,
Always the tortures of hell,
  As waiting and wincing we cursed
Our luck and the guns and the Boche,
  When our Corporal shouted "Stand to!"
And I heard someone cry, "Clear the front
    for the Guards!"
  And the Guards came through.

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Our throats they were parched and hot,
But Lord, if you'd heard the cheers!
Irish and Welsh and Scot,
Coldstream and Grenadiers.
Two brigades, if you please,
Dressing as straight as a hem,
We—we were down on our knees,
Praying for us and for them!
Praying with tear-wet cheek,
Praying with outstretched hand,
Lord, I could speak for a week,
But how could you understand!
How should *your* cheeks be wet,
Such feelin's don't come to *you.*
But when can me or my mates forget,
When the Guards came through!

"Five yards left extend!"
It passed from rank to rank.
Line after line with never a bend,
And a touch of the London swank.
A trifle of swank and dash,
Cool as a home parade,
Twinkle and glitter and flash,
Flinching never a shade,
With the shrapnel right in their face
Doing their Hyde Park stunt,
Keeping their swing at an easy pace,
Arms at the trail, eyes front!
Man, it was great to see!
Man, it was fine to do!
It's a cot and a hospital ward for me,
But I'll tell 'em in Blighty, wherever I be,
How the Guards came through.

Arthur Conan Doyle.

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V.—THE SOMME, SEPTEMBER, 1916.

After the battle of Loos, the Guards Division spent the remainder of the winter of 1915-16 in the Laventie area, under conditions of great discomfort owing to the water-logged state of the trenches and the atrocious weather, which made operations in the Salient during the winter months impossible except on a minor scale.

During the spring and early summer of 1916 the Division remained in the Ypres salient, but towards the end of July it marched south to the Somme battle area, where the great Allied offensive had opened on the first day of the month.

It was not, however, until September 15th that the Guards Division took an active part in the battle. On that date it was ordered to attack on a front of about 1,200 yards, in conjunction with the 6th and 14th Divisions, starting from just north of Ginchy, with the village of Les Boeufs as the final Divisional objective.

Great hopes were built upon this attack, in which, for the first time, Tanks were to be used. To ensure surprise with the new weapon, the Tanks, whose secret had been very closely guarded, and whose approach during the night of the 14th/15th was carefully concealed by intense artillery and machine gun fire, were to precede the infantry attack, advancing under a separate protective barrage at 5.30 a.m., their special mission being the destruction of the enemy's strong points and machine gun nests on the front of the attack. Unfortunately, however, owing to the appalling state of the ground, which, as a result of the previous fighting, was a mass of deep shell holes, shattered woods and ruined houses, only a few succeeded in reaching even our own front line, and of these, none were able to make any considerable progress beyond it.

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As a result of the failure of the Tanks, when the infantry advanced at 6.20 a.m., not only were the enemy fully prepared for the attack, but the machine gun nests, which (in reliance on the Tanks) had not been specially dealt with by the artillery barrage, were left intact to oppose the advance of our troops. On the right the 6th Division was almost immediately held up by a very strong detached system of trenches, about 600 yards east of Ginchy, known as the Quadrilateral. But in the centre the Guards Division, with the three Coldstream Battalions all in the front line, swept forward in spite of terrific enfilade fire from their exposed right flank and intense bombardment by the enemy's heavy artillery, and by 7.30 a.m. the first objective on the Divisional front was captured.

Casualties, however, had been terribly severe, and by the time the first objective was reached Battalions had lost nearly all their officers and the Brigades were greatly disorganised. Meanwhile a hurried consultation was held between the Officers Commanding the three Coldstream Battalions and the Officer Commanding the 1st Irish Guards, and it was decided that any further advance was impossible until the Quadrilateral, which still completely dominated the right flank of the Guards Division, had been cleared. The 2nd Guards Brigade accordingly undertook this task, which was brilliantly accomplished by 11 a.m.; whereupon the advance was continued, through a terrific enemy barrage, to the second objective, which was in turn captured by noon. The line thus gained was successfully consolidated, and several determined counter-attacks by the enemy were driven off.

To the Coldstream, whose three Battalions in line (with the 3rd Grenadiers) led the attack, the action of September 15th, 1916, will ever be held memorable

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among the most glorious achievements of the Regiment. The courage, the discipline and the unconquerable determination of all ranks to attain their objectives absolutely reckless of cost, more than honourably upheld the great traditions of the past. Especially conspicuous for his gallantry and cool leadership, Lieutenant-Colonel John Campbell, commanding the 3rd Battalion, proved himself through the day the life and soul of the attack, " fighting like a tiger, and leading his men everywhere with the silver horn given him by his old Company before the war."* For his gallantry in this action Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell received the Victoria Cross.

The toll of casualties in the three Battalions was terribly heavy : in the 1st Battalion 14 officers and 476 other ranks, in the 2nd Battalion 15 officers and 451 other ranks, and in the 3rd Battalion 11 officers and 399 other ranks were killed or wounded. In addition the Machine Gun Companies of the two leading Brigades, whose sections joined their respective regiments for the battle, lost in all 15 officers and 181 other ranks during the day.

After an interval of four days during which units were hastily reorganised, the Guards Division returned on September 21st to the line, near Trones Wood ; and on the 25th carried out a successful attack at Les Boeufs, which was captured without very serious opposition. During the next 48 hours the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were very heavily shelled in Les Boeufs, both the commanding officer and the adjutant of the 2nd Battalion being killed, but the Germans made no infantry counter-attack ; and on the evening of the 27th the Division was relieved, and, a few days later, was withdrawn into general reserve.

*Extract from a letter written by the Divisional Commander describing the action.

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VI.—YPRES, 1917.

Although during the months that followed the battle of the Somme the Guards Division was not engaged in any serious operations, the winter of 1916-17 spent alternately in the trenches and in support in the area about Sailly-Sallisel and Combles, north of the Somme, was for the troops possibly one of the most trying periods of the war.

The ground, everywhere torn up by the desperate fighting of July to September 1916, became, under the winter rains, a morass of deep mud and flooded shell-holes. Even in the back areas movement on foot was, as a rule, only possible by tracks specially cleared and duck-boarded; whilst in the line the attempt to keep in repair a continuous system of trenches had soon to be abandoned, and a system of detached "island" posts was substituted. Even these isolated posts were maintained only with the greatest difficulty, and, being without external communications, all movement (*e.g.*, fatigue parties, supplies, reliefs, etc.) had to be carried out by night. The weather, moreover, was atrocious, and early in the new year the rain, which had been almost continuous through the autumn, gave place to intense cold with heavy falls of snow, adding slush to the mud, and increasing still further the general misery of the countryside.

During these winter months, the Germans, on their side, were engaged upon the construction of the famous Hindenburg Line, running approximately from St. Quentin in the south to near Arras in the north. And to this line towards the end of March, only a few weeks before the great Allied spring offensive was launched, the enemy withdrew, having first completely devastated the whole of the country abandoned in their retirement.

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Following the German withdrawal the Guards Division was employed during the greater part of April and May on railway repair work and road-making in the area devastated by the enemy in their retreat. But at the end of May the Division moved north again to Flanders, where the next two months were spent in training and preparation for the coming offensive north of Ypres.

During the months of June and July several successful raiding operations were carried out ; and in the course of one of these, on July 20th, the 1st Battalion had the great misfortune to lose both its commanding officer and its second-in-command, who were killed by a single shell whilst going up to the front line trenches to reconnoitre. This was the fourth time in the campaign that the Battalion had lost its commanding officer killed in action.

At this time the Yser canal, upon which the Divisional front rested, constituted a serious obstacle to an advance. Accordingly on July 27th, a patrol of the 3rd Battalion having reported the enemy trenches on the east bank to be vacated, it was decided to seize the crossings immediately in front of the Division by a preliminary operation, and to establish a bridge-head on the further bank. This operation was successfully carried out by the 3rd Battalion, assisted by the 4th (Pioneer) Battalion, during the night of July 27th/28th. Covered by strong patrols of the 3rd Battalion, temporary bridges were thrown across the canal by the Pioneers, by means of which the remainder of the 3rd Battalion subsequently passed over without opposition under cover of darkness, and by dawn had established a line 700 yards east of the canal.

July 28th was an anxious day. The 3rd Battalion, with both flanks in the air, was subjected to continuous heavy shelling, which was followed towards evening by a

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strong German counter-attack. This was, however, repulsed, and the advanced line was maintained intact until the attack on the 31st, when it proved of the greatest value, enabling the attacking troops to pass over the canal to their assembly positions on the east bank without molestation by the enemy.

On July 31st, the main attack on the British front was delivered by the 5th Army between Zillebeke and Boesinghe. The Guards Division attacked on the extreme left of the British line, between the 38th Division on the right and the 1st French Division on the left.

The attack started just before dawn, the 2nd and 3rd Guards Brigades leading, and by 5.15 a.m. the first and second objectives had been captured without serious difficulty. On reaching the second objective the 1st Battalion Coldstream, which had till then been in support, passed through the leading Battalions and, with the 3rd Grenadiers, attacked the third objective, which was in turn captured, and the line consolidated under heavy fire. During this attack Guardsman Whitham of the 1st Battalion advanced, on his own initiative, through a dense enemy barrage, and succeeded in capturing, single-handed, a German machine gun with its crew—including an officer. For this very gallant exploit he received the Victoria Cross.

Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion, with the 1st Guards Brigade, having crossed the canal at 6.20 a.m., followed in support to the third Divisional objective, where the Brigade passed through the leading troops at 9.15, and successfully attacked the final objective 4,000 yards east of the canal, which was carried shortly after 10 a.m. Consolidation was carried out during the day under heavy artillery bombardment, but the enemy made no serious counter-attack ; and on August 2nd the

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Battalion was relieved in the line by the 3rd Battalion, which had not taken part in the attack on the 31st.

Invaluable assistance was again rendered in this battle by the 4th (Pioneer) Battalion, which, apart from the construction of the bridges over the Yser canal on July 27th and their subsequent maintenance until the attack on the 31st, was continuously employed throughout the operation in the arduous work of maintaining and improving communications immediately in rear of the attacking Brigades.

Early in August the Guards Division was withdrawn into reserve, and the next two months were spent mainly in rest and training. Meanwhile, notwithstanding the approach of autumn and the appalling weather which persisted through August and September 1917, the great battle in Flanders was continued without pause. And, after a series of successful attacks carried out towards the end of September and in the first days of October, the Guards Division, which had by then returned to the line north of Poelcapelle, was ordered to attack, on October 9th, on a front of about 1,400 yards, with the object of advancing the general line up to the Forêt d'Houthoulst. Immediately in front of the Division ran the Broembeke, a flooded stream, whose steep banks, shattered by shell fire, presented a formidable obstacle, especially in the opening stage of an advance.

On the night of October 8th/9th torrential rain and the appalling state of the ground made the task of assembling the attacking troops exceedingly difficult, several men having actually to be *dug out* of the mud! In addition the troops suffered a good deal from the effects of mustard gas, which at this time the Germans were using very extensively in this area. Nevertheless at 5.20 a.m. the 2nd Battalion, leading the 1st Guards

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Brigade, crossed the brook, the men wading waist-deep through the flood water, and advanced under an intense barrage towards the first objective.

As soon as the attack started considerable numbers of the enemy, holding forward positions covering the Broembeke, threw down their arms and surrendered without resistance. Heartened by this easy initial success, the troops pushed on as fast as the mud would allow, and by 6.15 a.m. the first objective had been captured. By 8 a.m. the second objective was also gained, and shortly afterwards the 3rd Battalion—till then in support—passed through, and continuing the advance under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire, successfully attacked the third, and final, objective just before 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, in the 2nd Guards Brigade, the 1st Battalion which had also been in support during the early stages of the battle, on reaching the second objective passed through the leading troops and, advancing with great dash, carried the final Brigade objective at 9.30. A German counter-attack later in the day was easily repulsed.

Throughout the battle the 4th (Pioneer) Battalion was again continuously employed in assisting the consolidation of the captured positions, a task which, in spite of many casualties, was performed with conspicuous success.

With this action ended the active operations of the Regiment in Flanders; and early in November the Guards Division moved south once more to the Cambrai battle front, where a fresh Allied offensive opened on November 20th.

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VII.—CAMBRAI.

When the Guards Division reached the Cambrai area on November 22nd, the battle of Cambrai had already been in progress for three days. From November 23rd till the 26th a fierce battle raged around Bourlon Wood and the little village of Fontaine notre Dame, both these localities repeatedly changing hands by successive attack and counter-attack; and, to relieve the general situation in that sector, it was decided on the 26th to make a fresh effort finally to capture Fontaine and the whole of the Bourlon ridge on the following day. This task was assigned to the Guards and the 62nd Divisions to carry out.

When the orders for the attack reached the 2nd Guards Brigade at 2 a.m. on the 27th, the Brigade was in course of moving up to relieve the 1st Brigade in the line near Fontaine notre Dame. The troops had already been lying out in the open for 48 hours. It was bitterly cold and wet, and during the night there was a heavy fall of snow. Nevertheless by 5 a.m. on the 27th the relief was successfully carried out, and the Battalions of the 2nd Brigade were assembled in readiness for the attack.

At 6.20 the 1st Battalion moved from its assembly position south-east of Bourlon Wood, and advanced through a dense German barrage to the village, which was captured after desperate hand-to-hand fighting. Shortly afterwards possession was also temporarily gained of the railway station beyond, though the latter was subsequently retaken by a strong enemy counter-attack; but was again captured, and yet again re-captured during the morning!

By noon all the main objectives on the Brigade front had been gained, but, owing to the terrific German

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barrage, no reinforcements were able to reach the leading Battalions; and at about 1 p.m., the troops on their right finding it impossible to maintain their advanced position, the 1st Battalion was compelled partially to draw back its line in order to conform. In the course of the day's fighting the Battalion alone took over 600 prisoners, as well as a German field gun and several machine guns. But its casualties were very heavy, 14 officers and 314 other ranks killed and wounded.

As a result of the ground gained in the Cambrai offensive, a pronounced salient was formed in the British line; and on November 30th the enemy made a strong and unexpected counter-attack at a point in this salient just east of Gouzeaucourt.

The German attack was at first successful; and at 9 a.m. on the 30th the Guards Division was hurriedly ordered to move to Gouzeaucourt, where the situation on the front of the III Corps was extremely critical. On approaching Gouzeaucourt it was found that the enemy had already succeeded in breaking through the III Corps defences, and the Germans could be seen advancing in great strength over the high ground above the village. Moreover, the movement of the Division to the front was made extremely difficult by the stream of fugitives hurrying back from the defeated units of the III Corps.

At 10 a.m. the 1st Brigade, which had by that hour reached a point about 1,000 yards west of Gouzeaucourt, was ordered to counter-attack and retake the village. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions, with the Irish Guards on their left, led the attack, which, with its right flank entirely exposed, came at once under intense machine gun and rifle fire. In spite of this, however, and in spite of the demoralising effect of having to advance through the retreating troops of the III Corps, the

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Battalions pressed on with the utmost determination and dash across the high ground and down the further slope towards the village. Here they were met by a veritable tornado of machine gun fire, which literally swept away the leading companies; but the advance swung forward without a check, through the village where the enemy broke and ran, and on, through a terrific German barrage, up the further ridge beyond.

By 1.30 p.m. the village had been entirely regained, and a new line established, where touch was eventually obtained with some Companies of the Middlesex Regiment, and with a mixed force of dismounted cavalry. Towards evening Tanks were sent forward to assist the consolidation, but most of these were knocked out by hostile artillery fire before they reached the new front line. In the village a number of heavy guns which had temporarily fallen into the hands of the enemy were retaken, also a complete supply train, on the contents of which the Brigade was fed for the next two days.

Fortunately the night was comparatively quiet, and the troops were able to dig themselves in securely on the positions they had won during the day. On the following morning (December 1st) the 1st and 3rd Guards Brigades were ordered to continue the attack, with the object of gaining the main ridge about 1,000 yards east of Gouzeaucourt. The attack, carried out with the assistance of Tanks, was completely successful, and by 9 a.m. the final Divisional objective had been captured. During the day the ridge and the valley in rear were continuously and heavily shelled, but there was no serious counter-attack, and in the evening the leading troops were relieved by the 2nd Guards Brigade.

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For this brilliant action, which undoubtedly saved the British Army from a serious disaster, the Guards Division, and particularly the 1st Guards Brigade, received many glowing tributes, including messages of the highest praise from the Commander-in-Chief, and from the General Officer Commanding III Corps.

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VIII.—THE GERMAN SPRING OFFENSIVE, 1918.

The heavy casualties sustained by the infantry in the operations of the previous autumn, and the increasing difficulty of providing adequate reinforcements, led early in 1918 to the reduction of the number of Battalions in infantry Brigades from four to three. As a result of this reduction three Battalions, the 3rd Coldstream, the 4th Grenadiers and the 2nd Irish Guards, were withdrawn from their respective Brigades in the Guards Division, and were formed, in February, into a 4th Guards Brigade, which was transferred to the 31st Division.

Meanwhile, in consequence of the conclusion of peace between the Central Powers and revolutionary Russia, the enemy was able during the first three months of 1918 to transfer no less than 34 Divisions to France from other theatres ; and it became evident that a great German offensive on the Western Front was imminent.

The Guards Division was in reserve near Arras when, on March 21st, the enemy launched the greatest of all his attacks, on a front of over 50 miles between the Oise and the Sensée rivers.

No attempt can be made in this narrative to describe in detail the course of the operations that followed, the full account of which may best be read in the official Despatches. Here it is only possible to record briefly the principal actions and movements of the three Coldstream Battalions whilst engaged in these operations. For the rest, it is enough to say that, although in the early stages of the battle a considerable amount of ground was lost under pressure of attack by greatly superior numbers, a new line was eventually established

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within 10 miles of Amiens, and on this line the battle was stabilised. Thereafter every attempt on the part of the enemy to attain his main objectives, the capture of Amiens and the separation of the British Armies from the French, was successfully resisted; until finally his offensive power was broken and his vast effort ended in a costly failure, which directly paved the way to the combined counter-offensive in August, and to the final victory of the Allies in the following autumn.

On the British front the weight of the first German attack fell mainly upon the 3rd and 5th Armies; and at about midday on March 21st the Guards Division, at Arras, received orders to be ready to move at short notice.

At 6.30 p.m. the 2nd Guards Brigade, including the 1st Battalion, moved to Mercatel, four miles south of Arras, with orders to support the 3rd Division. On the following morning the 1st Battalion, assisted by Tanks, occupied a position about Henin sur Cojeul where it was heavily shelled all through the day, though no infantry attack developed. On the 23rd the Brigade was relieved and marched to Boiry St. Martin, but at dusk the same evening it was again moved up into the line east of Hamelincourt, between the 31st Division on the right and the 3rd Guards Brigade. There followed 48 hours of confused fighting and continual movement, until the evening of March 26th, when, owing to the retirement of the troops on the right of the Guards Division, the 2nd Brigade was again put into the line east of Boiry St. Martin, where it remained throughout the following day. On the 28th the Brigade was heavily attacked after an intense artillery preparation, but the Germans were finally beaten off by rifle and machine gun fire, and the line was maintained intact until the evening of the 30th when the Brigade was relieved.

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In the meantime the 2nd Battalion, in the 1st Guards Brigade, left Arras on March 22nd, marching first to Boisleux-au-Mont and later to Boiry, where it remained in support till it relieved the 3rd Grenadiers in the line near Moyenville on the 26th. On the 27th a movement of the enemy against the right flank of this line was repulsed by rifle fire, and the position remained the same until the 29th, when the Battalion was relieved and moved back into reserve at Hendecourt.

The 3rd Battalion with the 31st Division was in reserve near Tinques when the German attack opened. On the 22nd the Division was moved down by bus to the battle area, and on arrival at Blaireville, south-west of Arras, the 3rd Battalion was sent, at midnight (22nd/23rd) into the line near Hamelincourt, on the right of the Guards Division. The next two days were comparatively quiet, but on March 24th the enemy made a successful attack near Mory (just south of the line held by the 31st Division) as a result of which the 4th Guards Brigade had to form a defensive flank, facing south-east, near the Ervillers-St. Leger road. In this position the 3rd Battalion was heavily attacked at dusk on the 24th, and again on the following day, when the enemy almost succeeded in surrounding it. Both these attacks, however, were ultimately driven off, and the Battalion moved back after dark on the 25th to a new line west of Courcelles. During the night of the 26th/27th the Battalion was again in the line on the high ground south of Douchy, and in this position repeated attacks, supported by intense artillery fire, were repulsed during the next two days. The 4th Guards Brigade was finally relieved on April 1st.

For the next fortnight the three Coldstream Battalions continued, with their respective Brigades, alternately in the line and in support, near Arras; but by the first

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week in April the battle in this sector had died down, and the Guards Division was not again seriously engaged.

Of these operations the Regiment may recall with justifiable pride that, throughout the great defensive battles of March 1918, in the course of which the Germans gained more ground than at any other period of the campaign on the Western Front (since August 1914), not one of the three Coldstream Battalions lost a yard of trench under pressure of the enemy, or retired from a single position except under the definite orders of superior authority.

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IX.—BATTLE OF THE LYS, APRIL, 1918.

Following the failure of their great offensive effort in March, on April 9th the Germans delivered another great attack on the British front between Béthune and Ypres, a section of the line held, at that time, mainly by weak and exhausted Divisions which had been withdrawn from the Somme battlefield to rest and reorganise.

During the first forty-eight hours the attack was in a large measure successful. By the evening of April 10th the British line had been penetrated to a depth of from three to five miles; Armentières and Estaires had been captured, and the enemy was threatening Merville.

On April 11th the 31st Division, then in reserve at Arras, was hurriedly moved by bus to the threatened front, and early the following morning the 4th Guards Brigade reached l'Épinette, where, on arrival, it was ordered to support the 50th Division which had suffered very severely in the fighting of the previous days. Soon after daybreak the 3rd Battalion occupied a position between l'Épinette and Arrewage, where at about 8 a.m. a strong infantry attack was driven off. But, shortly afterwards, a fresh attack by the enemy just to the right of the Battalion front, drove back the exhausted troops of the 50th Division across the river Bourre, and in consequence of this the 4th Guards Brigade was ordered at 11 a.m. to counter-attack and to secure a line from north of Merville to Neuf Berquin.

The counter-attack started at 11.30 a.m., the 3rd Battalion and the 4th Grenadiers leading. But, with the exception of one Company of the 3rd Battalion which succeeded in pushing forward some 400 yards,

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the remainder of the attacking Battalions were held up by a deep stream called the Plate Becque, and were unable to make progress. As a result the advanced Company was left completely in the air, and in this situation, at 3.30 p.m., it was heavily counter-attacked. After a desperate fight, however, the enemy was repulsed; and a little later another Company of the 3rd Battalion, with some men of the Irish Guards, came up in support, just in time to assist in driving off a fresh counter-attack which the enemy delivered at about 5 p.m.

The night passed quietly, but at dawn on the 13th the Germans renewed their attack, and, under cover of a thick mist, succeeded in penetrating between the 3rd Battalion and the Battalion next to it; and l'Épinette was lost. Thereupon No. 1 Company of the 3rd Battalion (which was by now reduced to a strength of less than 30, all ranks) was ordered to counter-attack and to fill the gap. By this time, however, the Battalion was practically surrounded; and after a magnificent resistance—in the course of which Guardsman Jacotine, when all the remainder of his post had become casualties, heroically continued to hold up the enemy single-handed, until he was himself killed by a bomb—the Companies gallantly endeavoured to fight their way back independently, though but few men succeeded in getting through alive.

Nevertheless, the German attack was finally checked, and the Brigade line re-established just east of Arrewage. On the 16th what was left of the 3rd Battalion (only one officer and about 40 other ranks) was formed into a composite Battalion with the 4th Grenadiers, who had also suffered very severely in the actions on the 12th and 13th. From April 18th till the 27th the Brigade was again in the line; but the force of the enemy's

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attack had been broken, and once again he had failed in his object, to force a way to the Channel Ports.

In his Despatch describing these operations the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, wrote of the action of the 4th Guards Brigade: "No more brilliant exploit has taken place since the opening of the enemy's offensive, though gallant actions have been without number"; and the General Officer Commanding XV. Corps, in his official report of the battle, stated that: "the history of the British Army could record nothing finer than the glorious stand of the 4th Guards Brigade against overwhelming odds on April 12th and 13th."

Early in May the 4th Guards Brigade left the 31st Division and was placed directly under the orders of General Headquarters. In September it was re-organised as a special force of mobile infantry, carried in motor lorries, and was attached to the Cavalry Corps with which it remained until the Armistice in November, when it was finally broken up, the three Battalions rejoining their respective Brigades in the Guards Division.

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X.—AUGUST—NOVEMBER, 1918.

After the German offensive of March and April 1918, no further attack on so great a scale was made by the enemy on the British front. From May till August, therefore, Divisions had a breathing space in which to reorganise and to prepare for the coming counter-offensive.

On the front of our Allies, however, the Germans made during the summer two more great attacks: the first, at the end of May, in Champagne, in the course of which the enemy penetrated as far as Château Thiery on the Marne; and the second, early in July, between Château Thiery and the Argonne. On each occasion, after a preliminary success, the enemy was eventually repulsed. And in the successful counter-offensive launched by Maréchal Foch on July 18th it became apparent that the offensive spirit of the enemy was at last exhausted, and that thenceforward the initiative had passed definitely to the Allies.

The British participation in the combined Allied offensive, which continued without pause until the enemy was finally beaten in November, commenced on August 8th, when the 4th British Army attacked, in conjunction with the 1st French Army, east and south-east of Amiens. But it was not till a fortnight later, on August 21st, that the Guards Division, which now formed part of the VI. Corps in the 3rd Army, took part in the battle. By an interesting coincidence, in the attack on August 21st the 5th Division on the right of the VI. Corps, the 2nd Division in the centre, and the Guards Division on the left were commanded respectively by Major-Generals Ponsonby, Pereira and Feilding, the three officers who were commanding the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Regiment at the beginning of the War.

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In the Guards Division the 2nd Brigade, with the 1st Coldstream and 1st Scots Guards in front, led the attack, the Brigade objective being the village of Moyenneville. Zero hour was at 4.45 a.m., and the attacking Battalions, advancing in a dense mist, pushed rapidly forward with but slight opposition, and by 7 a.m. had gained all their objectives. During the day the Battalion was heavily shelled in Moyenneville, but towards evening a further advance was made, and strong posts established to the outskirts of Hamelincourt. At 4 a.m. on the 22nd the Germans made a determined counter-attack on this line, but were driven off; and at dawn on the following day the Brigade again attacked, and captured the village of Hamelincourt.

During the next four days successful attacks were made at various points, the enemy's line being penetrated in places to a depth of six miles, and many thousands of prisoners were taken.

On August 27th the Guards Division again attacked, on a Divisional front of 3,000 yards, east of St. Leger. At 7 a.m. the 2nd Battalion, leading the 1st Guards Brigade, advanced under a protective barrage, but, owing to the very stubborn resistance encountered, not much progress was made until late in the day, when an important system of German trenches was finally captured. During the night, however, the enemy retired, and the Brigade advanced on the following day, without opposition, over 1,500 yards in pursuit. In the heavy fighting on the 27th the 2nd Battalion lost 10 officers and 314 other ranks killed and wounded.

On the evening of the 28th the Guards Division was withdrawn into reserve, having captured during the seven days since August 21st more than 1,500 prisoners, including 30 officers, as well as many machine guns and large quantities of war material of all kinds.

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After a few days' rest near Arras the Division returned to the battle area on September 2nd, and on the 3rd the 2nd Guards Brigade was ordered to attack east of Hamelincourt; but before the attack could develop the enemy retired, the Brigade following in pursuit as far as Lagnicourt.

The Division was next engaged on September 27th, when it was ordered to cross the Canal du Nord and to seize the high ground between Flesquiéres and Presny Chapel, in conjunction with an attack by the 3rd Division on Flesquiéres, and by the 52nd Division on the main Hindenburg Line west of the canal. The task assigned to the Guards Division was rendered particularly difficult owing to the necessity of forcing the crossing of the canal in face of strong opposition at the very beginning of the attack.

At 5.20 a.m. the 1st Battalion, on the left of the 2nd Guards Brigade, moved forward under a barrage to the canal; but the first attempt to gain the crossing failed, owing to intense machine gun fire from the German posts on the east bank, added to the obstruction of wire and other obstacles placed by the enemy in the canal. A few minutes later, however, Captain Frisby, commanding No. 2 Company, managed to get across, and, accompanied by Corporal Jackson and two men, very gallantly rushed and captured an enemy post on the further bank, thereby enabling the remainder of the Battalion to pass over the canal without opposition. For this gallant exploit both Captain Frisby and Corporal Jackson were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Beyond the canal the Battalion pushed forward, but at 7 a.m. the leading Companies were held up by terrific machine gun fire from the front and from their left flank which in the course of the advance had become exposed. After some hard fighting, however, the

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enemy's resistance was eventually overcome, and at about 5 p.m. the Germans holding a strong group of trenches in front of the Battalion surrendered, over 300 prisoners being taken, including a Battalion Commander, in addition to 30 machine guns and 10 trench mortars. Later the same evening the Battalion was relieved.

A fortnight later the Guards Division was again in action—on October 9th—when it attacked east of Wambaix through the line held by the 2nd and 3rd Divisions, which had by this time been advanced nearly six miles east of the area in which the Division had been fighting on September 27th.

The attack commenced at 4.30 a.m. and the 2nd Battalion, leading the 1st Guards Brigade, advanced rapidly as far as the southern edge of Cattenières, where a line was consolidated. On the following day the attack was continued, against feeble German resistance, to the western outskirts of Quievy. And by the 12th the Brigade had reached a line east of Fontaine-aie-Tertre, with advanced posts pushed out to the railway near Solesmes, where it remained until the 16th, when it was withdrawn into reserve at St. Hilaire, seven miles east of Cambrai.

Meanwhile the 1st Battalion, with the 2nd Guards Brigade, had also moved on October 9th, advancing without serious opposition across the Cambrai-Caudry railway to a position about Awoignt. On the 16th it took part in the capture of Haussy, and in the course of this action one Company was for a time completely surrounded as the result of a strong German counter-attack, but ultimately succeeded in fighting its way back, with great gallantry, to the remainder of the Battalion. On October 19th the Brigade was relieved, and marched back in reserve to St. Hilaire, where it remained till the end of the month.

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At the beginning of November the Guards Division returned to the line, and on the 3rd it was ordered to seize the high ground east of Villers Pol, with Maubeuge as the final Divisional objective. The attack was due to commence at dawn on the 4th; but during the preceding evening, whilst the troops were moving up to their assembly positions, it was discovered that the enemy was already withdrawing from Villers Pol. Orders were accordingly issued to attack forthwith; and, advancing after dark, the 1st and 2nd Guards Brigades, after some hard fighting, had gained the greater part of the village by midnight; but in the intense darkness further progress during the night was impossible. On the 4th the advance was continued, the 2nd Battalion alone capturing, during the day, upwards of 200 prisoners and eight German field guns. On the 7th, Bavai was occupied; and on the 8th the 2nd Guards Brigade, driving back the German rear-guards, reached the line of the Maubeuge-Valenciennes railway.

It is of interest that during the fighting on October 8th the 1st Battalion captured La Longueville, the village in which the Battalion was billeted on August 24th, 1914, on the second night of the retreat from Mons.

Late the same evening the ~~3rd~~ 2nd Guards Brigade occupied Maubeuge, which was entered officially by the General Officer Commanding the Guards Division, amid tremendous enthusiasm on the part of the inhabitants, on the following morning, ~~October~~ Nov. 9th. And here the Division remained until November 11th, when the Armistice finally brought hostilities to an end.

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CONCLUSION.

So ends the story, very briefly told, of the part played by the Coldstream Guards in the Great War.

No attempt has been made to discuss the strategy or the tactics of the campaign; and very little has been said of the remarkable development of armaments, and especially of mechanical devices, during the War, or of the local conditions under which the troops lived and fought.

But as the War continued many changes took place.

In August 1914 there were but few aeroplanes, and none of these were armed for aerial fighting. In the British Army there were practically no heavy guns or howitzers, and no tractor-drawn artillery. The use of poison gas was unknown. There were no Tanks, no trench mortars, no bombs or rifle grenades, no Lewis guns; and in each Battalion there were only two machine guns.

Another example of contrast, in the early days of the War the heavy cavalry of our French Allies still went into action wearing their cuirasses, and the French infantry were still distinguishable at long distances by their baggy red trousers!

In the opening stages of the Campaign, during the retreat from Mons, and the subsequent advance from the Marne to the Aisne, the fighting was in the open, and the men relied mainly upon the light entrenching tools they carried for such shelter as they had the time and opportunity to construct.

Later, as the immense battle line grew, a continuous line of trenches gradually extended from the Swiss frontier to the North Sea at Nieuport. As time went on this trench system became more and more elaborate,

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until eventually defences were commonly organised to a depth of from five to ten miles from front to rear.

Meanwhile, in the actual trenches, or in the ground about them, countless new devices were introduced. Concrete dug-outs, and elevating machine gun platforms; gas alarums, and Vermorel sprayers to neutralise the effects of poison gas; trench pumps to clear out water, and braziers to keep men warm; periscopes; camouflage; trench mortars; nets to catch hostile bombs; trench wireless sets; the system of sound ranging; instruments which enabled the telephonic and telegraphic communications of the enemy to be overheard; these and a hundred similar devices came into being, and added to the complications of life in the trenches.

By 1916 all ranks were provided with steel helmets and with gas masks. In this year also the British Army introduced two novelties which ultimately went far towards winning the War—the Tank, and the creeping artillery barrage.

In 1917 there was, among all Armies, an immense increase in aircraft, and from that time forward aerial fighting on a vast scale was carried out almost continuously both by day and by night.

But it was not by the development of weapons or by mechanical inventions (which were common to both sides) that the War was won. Good leading, courage, discipline, loyalty and self-sacrifice were the qualities which eventually brought the campaign to a victorious end.

In the foregoing narrative the record of splendid achievement is admittedly incomplete. Many gallant exploits have received but the barest descriptions; many more have been omitted altogether. But enough of the story has been told at least to show that, through-

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out the varying fortunes of four and a half years, no matter how severe its losses, how evil the conditions, or how arduous the task, never in any circumstances did the Regiment fail to respond loyally and gallantly to every call made upon it.

In the demoralising days of the opening retreat from Mons, in the desperate fighting against great odds at Ypres in 1914, in the long strain and weariness of three successive years of trench warfare, in the heroic defensive actions during the spring of 1918, and in the brilliant series of offensive battles leading to the final victory, always the same spirit prevailed, the same discipline, the same courage, the same unconquerable "will to victory"—all those great qualities that, throughout its history, have earned for the Regiment its unchallenged motto: *Nulli Secundus.*

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APPENDICES TO PART II.

APPENDIX I.

Victoria Cross Awards.

No. 5854, Lance-Corpl. GEORGE HARRY WYATT, V.C.
3rd Battalion.

August 25th, 1914. At Landrecies he twice dashed out of the line, under heavy fire, and extinguished burning straw which threatened to make our position untenable. At Villers Cotterets, a few days later, he was wounded in the head, but continued firing until he could no longer see, owing to the flow of blood. After having his wound dressed, he returned to the firing line and continued to fight.

No. 6840, Lance-Corpl. FREDERICK WILLIAM DOBSON, V.C.
2nd Battalion.

September 28th, 1914. At Chavonne, on the Aisne, he showed conspicuous gallantry. Well knowing the extreme danger of such an undertaking, he brought in, under heavy fire, on two occasions, wounded men who were lying exposed in the open.

No. 6738, Lance-Sergt. OLIVER BROOKS, V.C. 3rd Battalion.

October 8th, 1915. Near Loos. A strong party of the enemy having captured 200 yards of trench on our left, Lance-Sergt. Brooks, on his own initiative, got together a party of bombers and made a violent attack on the enemy, and re-captured the lost trench. His fearlessness and promptitude amidst a hail of German bombs saved a critical situation.

Lieut.-Col. JOHN VAUGHAN CAMPBELL, V.C., D.S.O.
3rd Battalion.

September 15th, 1916. In the attack near Ginchy (Somme), exposing himself fearlessly, he again and again rallied with voice and hunting horn the shattered remnants of his Battalion, and led them through a heavy barrage in renewed attacks on the enemy's machine guns, which eventually were captured. He was himself one of the first to enter the enemy's trenches.

No. 15067, Guardsman THOMAS WHITHAM, V.C. 1st Battalion.

July 31st, 1917. Near Boesinghe (Belgium) he, on his own initiative, worked his way from shell-hole to shell-hole through our own barrage, rushed an enemy machine gun which enfiladed the Battalion, and captured it, together with its officer and two men. He thus saved many lives, and enabled our whole line to advance.

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Lieut. (A/Captain) CYRIL HUBERT FRISBY, V.C. 1st Battalion.

September 27th, 1918. When crossing the Canal du Nord, near Graincourt, the advance was stopped by a strong machine gun post. Followed by his men, Captain Frisby climbed down into and crossed the Canal under point-blank machine gun fire and captured the post with its two guns and 12 men. Though wounded in the leg by a bayonet, he remained on duty.

No. 20810, Lance-Corpl. THOMAS NORMAN JACKSON, V.C.
1st Battalion.

September 27th, 1918. He was the first to follow Captain C. H. Frisby across the Canal du Nord in a rush against an enemy machine gun post. With two comrades he helped his officer to rush the enemy post. Later he was the first to jump into a German trench which his platoon had to clear. He was afterwards killed. His conduct set an inspiring example to all.

NOTE.—*The following Coldstreamers obtained the Victoria Cross during the Crimean War :—*

Brevet-Major GERALD LITTLEHALES GOODLAKE, V.C.
1st Battalion. Crimea, 1854–1856.

October 26th, 1854. Commanded with distinguished gallantry the Coldstream Guards' sharpshooters, who held the Windmill Ravine against a much larger force of the enemy, on whom were inflicted very heavy losses. He also distinguished himself when leading the sharpshooters on the occasion of a successful surprise of an enemy piquet in November, 1854.

Brevet-Major JOHN AUGUSTUS CONOLLY, V.C.
Crimea, 1854–1856.

October 26th, 1854. As a Lieutenant in the 49th Regiment, he commanded a company on outlying piquet, and behaved with conspicuous gallantry in the hand-to-hand fighting which followed an attack on his post. He was promoted into the Coldstream Guards as an additional reward for his gallantry.

No. 3968, Private WILLIAM STANLACK, V.C.
1st Battalion. Crimea, 1854–1856.

October, 1854. When employed as a sharpshooter, he crawled up to within six yards of a Russian sentry in order to reconnoitre, and so enabled his officer to effect a surprise. He had been warned of the extreme danger involved in this undertaking.

No. 4787, Private GEORGE STRONG, V.C.
1st Battalion. Crimea, 1854–1856.

September, 1855. When on duty he picked up a live shell that had fallen in the trench and threw it over the parapet. He was well aware of the extreme danger involved. His action saved many lives.

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APPENDIX II.

Description.	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.
Victoria Cross	2	5	7
Distinguished Service Order	44	—	44
Bar to Distinguished Service Order	1	—	1
Military Cross	132	6	138
Bar to Military Cross	7	—	7
Brevet and Hon. Promotion	47	—	47
Mentioned in Despatches	332	161	493
Promoted for Distinguished Service in the Field	12	—	12
Mentioned in Despatches for valuable services rendered other than in the Field	36	24	60
Order of the Bath—			
G.C.B.	1	—	1
K.C.B.	5	—	5
C.B.	9	—	9
Royal Victorian Order—			
G.C.V.O.	1	—	1
K.C.V.O.	1	—	1
C.V.O.	2	—	2
M.V.O.	2	—	2
Order of British Empire—			
C.B.E.	6	—	6
O.B.E.	14	—	14
M.B.E.	4	—	4
Order of St. Michael and St. George—			
K.C.M.G.	1	—	1
C.M.G.	15	—	15
Distinguished Conduct Medal	—	160	160
Bar to Distinguished Conduct Medal	—	5	5
Military Medal	—	493	493
Bar to Military Medal	—	16	16
Meritorious Service Medal	—	64	64
Albert Medal	—	1	1
Foreign Decorations	93	42	135
Commissions obtained from the Ranks	—	—	408

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APPENDIX III.

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF BATTALIONS.

1st Battalion.	*From.*	*To.*
Lt.-Col. J. Ponsonby, D.S.O.	—	15- 9-14
Major H. W. Studd, D.S.O.	16- 9-14	19- 9-14
Major J. Steele	20- 9-14	29- 9-14
*Major Hon. L. d'H. Hamilton ..	30- 9-14	29-10-14
Capt. G. J. Edwards	5-11-14	19-11-14
Lt.-Col. J. Ponsonby, D.S.O.	19-11-14	28-12-14
Major Hon. C. H. D. Willoughby ..	29-12-14	3- 5-15
Lt.-Col. J. Ponsonby, D.S.O.	4- 5-15	25- 8-15
*Lt.-Col. A. G. E. Egerton	26- 8-15	29- 9-15
*Lt.-Col. Hon. G. V. Baring	2-10-15	15- 9-16
*Lt.-Col. G. B. S. Follett, D.S.O., M.V.O.	24- 9-16	12-11-16
*Lt.-Col. E. B. G. Gregge-Hopwood, D.S.O.	13-11-16	20- 7-17
Lt.-Col. J. C. Brand, M.C.	22- 7-17	to end.
2nd Battalion.		
Lt.-Col. C. E. Pereira	—	17- 5-15
Major P. A. Macgregor, D.S.O. ..	17- 5-15	24- 5-15
Lt.-Col. J. Steele	24- 5-15	27- 8-15
Lt.-Col. P. A. Macgregor, D.S.O. ..	27- 8-15	24- 3-16
*Lt.-Col. G. B. S. Follett, D.S.O., M.V.O.	24- 3-16	18- 7-16
*Major G. E. Vaughan	18- 7-16	24- 7-16
Lt.-Col. R. B. J. Crawfurd, D.S.O. ..	24- 7-16	12-11-16
*Lt.-Col. G. B. S. Follett, D.S.O., M.V.O.	12-11-16	25-11-16
Lt.-Col. L. M. Gibbs, M.C.	25-11-16	8- 3-17
*Lt.-Col G. B. S. Follett, D.S.O., M.V.O.	8- 3-17	22- 3-18
Lt.-Col. E. P. Brassey, M.C.	22- 3-18	to end.
3rd Battalion.		
Lt.-Col. G. P. T. Feilding, D.S.O. ..	—	24-10-14
Major T. G. Matheson	24-10-14	14-11-14
Lt.-Col. G. P. T. Feilding, D.S.O. ..	14-11-14	27- 4-15
Lt.-Col. T. G. Matheson	27- 4-15	29- 7-15
Lt.-Col. J. V. Campbell, D.S.O. ..	29- 7-15	4-11-16
Lt.-Col. R. B. J. Crawfurd, D.S.O. ..	12-11-16	10-10-17
Lt.-Col. F. Longueville, D.S.O., M.C ..	10-10-17	25- 4-18
Lt.-Col. R. B. J. Crawfurd, D.S.O. ..	25- 4-18	to end.
4th Battalion (Pioneers).		
Lt.-Col. R. C. E. Skeffington-Smyth ..	17- 7-15	18-10-17
Lt.-Col. G. J. Edwards, M.C.	19-10-17	to end.

* Killed in action.

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APPENDIX IV (i).

NUMBERS WHO JOINED THE REGIMENT BETWEEN 4TH AUGUST, 1914, AND THE END OF THE GREAT WAR.

Officers.	*Other Ranks.*	*Total.*
584	20,072	20,656

APPENDIX IV (ii).

NUMBERS OF REGIMENT WHO WENT OVERSEAS DURING GREAT WAR.

(A) *With Battalions, including first reinforcements* :—

	Officers.	*Other Ranks.*	*Total.*
1st Battalion	31	1,299	1,330
2nd Battalion ..	31	1,261	1,292
3rd Battalion	31	1,277	1,308
4th Battalion (Pioneers)	29	1,002	1,031

(B) *With drafts up to the signing of the Armistice on* 11-11-18 :—

	Officers.	*Other Ranks.*	*Total.*
1st Battalion	223	5,717	5,940
2nd Battalion	154	3,746	3,900
3rd Battalion	158	4,030	4,188
4th Battalion (Pioneers)	69	1,259	1,328

N.B.—The numbers of these drafts include many Officers Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s and men who proceeded overseas more than once.

APPENDIX V.

CASUALTIES.

	Officers.	*Other Ranks.*	*Total.*
Killed in action or died of wounds	171	3,680	3,851
Wounded	328	9,183	9,511
Prisoners of war	16	602	618
Missing	4	129	133

N.B.—The numbers shown against "Missing" were the actual numbers when the Armistice was signed. These have all since been presumed as deceased and are included in the numbers of dead shown above.

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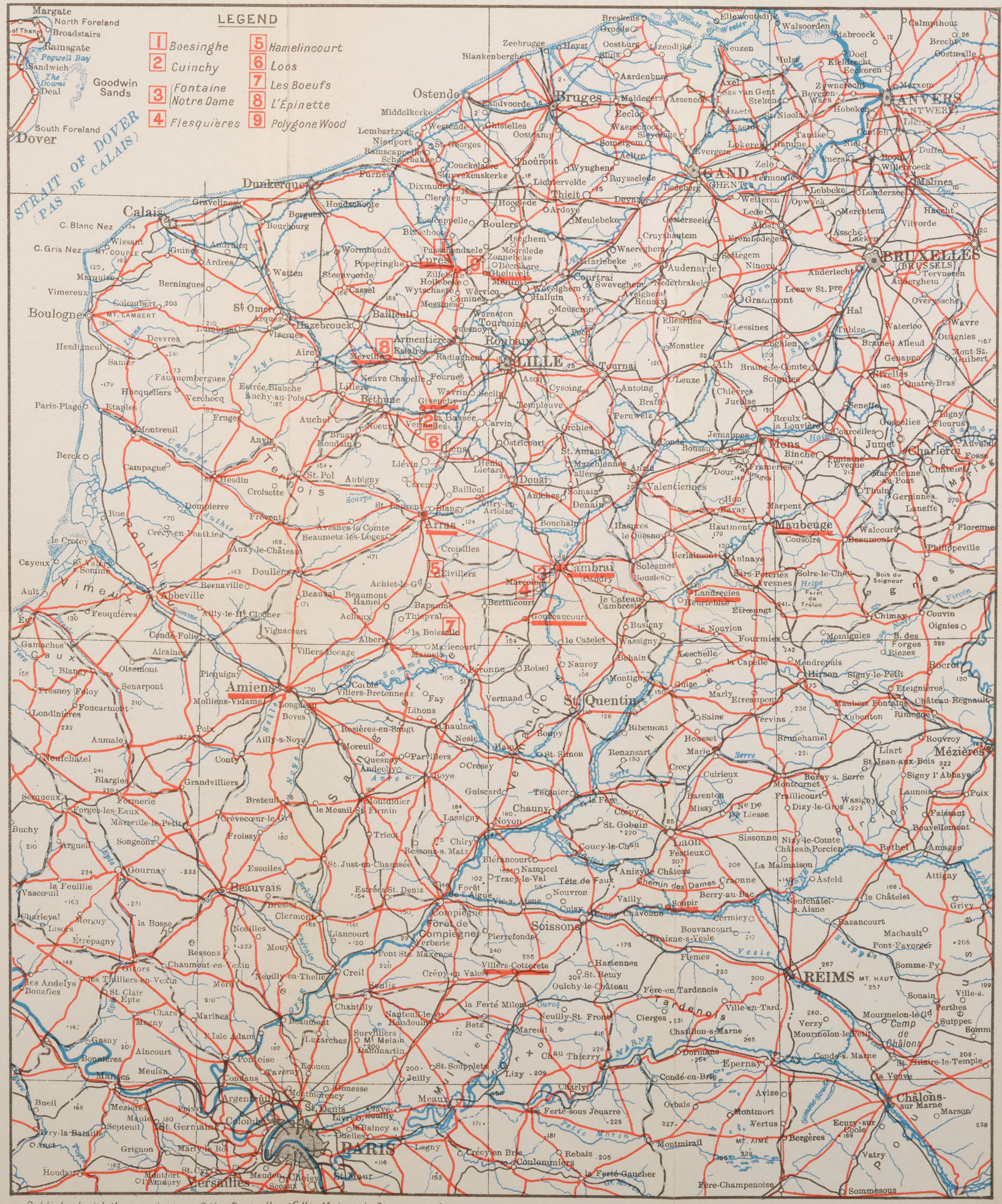
LEGEND
1 Boesinghe
2 Cuinchy
3 (Fontaine / Notre Dame
4 Flesquières
5 Hamelincourt
6 Loos
7 Les Boeufs
8 L'Épinette
9 Polygone Wood
STRAIT OF DOVER
(PAS DE CALAIS)
Goodwin Sands
Margate
North Foreland
Broadstairs
Ramsgate
Pegwell Bay
Sandwich
The Downs
Deal
South Foreland
Dover
Ostende
Bruges
ANVERS (ANTWERP)
Dunkerque
Calais
GAND (GHENT)
BRUXELLES (BRUSSELS)
LILLE
Roubaix
Tourcoing
Armentières
Hazebrouck
Boulogne
St Omer
Ypres
Courtrai
Tournai
Mons
Charleroi
Maubeuge
Valenciennes
Douai
Arras
Cambrai
Amiens
St. Quentin
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REIMS
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Calaisis
Boulonnais
Artois
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Vimeux
Caux
Santerre
Vermandois
Soissonnais
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